

## **Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Taskforce**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 10, 2025

### **Attendees**

- Cece W.
- Jimmy J.
- Mariah
- Severah
- Collin H.
- Lori A.
- Bridgett M.

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## **1. Town Updates**

### **EV Charging Stations**

- Jimmy reported that the EV charging stations are now up and operational. Users will need a ChargePoint account to access the stations.
- The Village may be eligible to receive CSC points for this project; this will need to be verified with Carly and Amanda.
- Lori asked about challenges encountered during the process.
  - Mariah and Jimmy explained that the grant was awarded in 2022, resulting in a lengthy implementation timeline.
  - Activation proved challenging, as the engineers involved did not prioritize the project, causing additional delays.
- Bridgett suggested that once usage increases—particularly during the summer—the available tracking data could be used for social media posts or reports highlighting reductions in fossil fuel emissions.

### **Government Operations Inventory**

- Jimmy shared that he is working on completing the government operations inventory.
  - Once completed, this will help better align the Town and Village on CSC goals and reporting.
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## 2. Grants & CSC Points

- Cece asked whether the Town or Village is currently applying for funding and emphasized the importance of planning ahead to incorporate CSC elements into future grant applications.
  - Mariah noted that the Town's engineers are actively tracking funding opportunities and plan to leverage EV charging station points in grant applications.
  - Lori suggested that the CSC Taskforce be more directly involved in this process so taskforce initiatives can contribute toward earning points.
  - Lori also noted that the comprehensive plan is outdated and should be rewritten—not only for LWRP purposes, but more broadly.
    - Cece said she would begin looking into available CSC points related to this effort.
  - Jimmy requested a separate meeting with Cece to review submitted materials and discuss next steps, as he has not received updates from Carly.
  - Cece explained that reviews typically occur twice per year, but agreed that Jimmy should have heard back by now. She will follow up with Carly and coordinate a meeting.
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## 3. Tree Committee (Lori)

- Lori emphasized that while it's not realistic to protect every tree, but should proactively identify future planting locations and determine which tree species are best suited for each area.
  - She proposed developing a tree inventory, along with guidance on recommended species.
  - An educational component was also discussed, providing residents with resources on selecting appropriate trees for their own properties.
  - Lori has spoken with Tracy Brabant, Jeremy Kellogg, Andy Greene, and Robbin Hoffman, all of whom expressed interest in helping initiate this effort.
  - Lori also spoke with TILT Executive Director Jake Tibbles about potentially aligning the tree committee's work with TILT's Arbor Day event, pending a clear CSC plan.
  - Consideration should be given to leaf cleanup requirements when selecting tree species.
  - Lori noted that large tree sales often occur once or twice per year, presenting opportunities for both public education and potential CSC-led planting events. Partnerships with local or regional nurseries may also be possible.
  - Jimmy shared plans to plant at least six trees around Cerow Recreation Park in the spring.
  - Lori clarified that her role would focus on coordination and bringing stakeholders together, rather than technical planting expertise.
  - Mariah expressed interest in planting trees at the marina.
  - Cece noted that tree planting initiatives can earn CSC points and referenced the NYS DEC PE6 Action for climate-smart land use and forestry.
  - Mariah added that a recent tree inventory was conducted by an arborist in the Village of Clayton.
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#### 4. STR's WEC – Saturday, January 31

- Cece registered the CSC Taskforce for a table and will handle setup. She asked if others were interested in attending.
  - Bridgett confirmed she will attend on behalf of TILT and assist with setup, as she did last year.
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#### 5. Pollinators / Pollinator Garden

- Lori suggested organizing a spring initiative to collect donated pollinator-friendly perennials for planting near the transfer station. This could be done as a formal event or a smaller, informal effort after the frost.
  - Jimmy recommended tying this initiative into Spring Fest.
  - Lori emphasized the importance of early outreach to maximize donations and incorporate educational messaging about pollinators and perennials.
  - Cece suggested involving high school students, offering an opportunity to earn volunteer hours.
  - Lori noted the need to avoid invasive species and will reach out to Cierra at CCE for a recommended plant list.
  - Bridgett will assist with promotional posts.
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#### 6. Walking School Bus

- Cece expressed interest in launching a Walking School Bus program and has reached out to Kelly Picunas. Margaret Hummel and Alta Vietz may also be interested.
  - Cece noted that direct involvement from the school would not be required.
  - Mariah suggested involving the fire department to assist with traffic control at intersections.
  - Lori recommended holding the event during Earth Week.
  - Bridgett will create a flyer.
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#### 7. Spring Fest

- Cece sent Jimmy the partner table list for the upcoming Spring Fest.
  - Jimmy will contact the Chamber to ensure the event is listed.
  - Bridgett will create a “Save the Date” social media post by the end of January.
  - Bridgett will also design a flyer to distribute while tabling at WEC.
  - The group hopes to recruit new partner tables during WEC outreach.
  - **Tentative date:** May 16, 2026 (to be finalized at the next meeting).
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## **8. CSC Communications**

- **Social Media Updates:**  
Bridgett McCann — [bmccann@tilandtrust.org](mailto:bmccann@tilandtrust.org)
  - **CSC Webpage Updates:**  
Amanda Cantwell — [deputyclerk@villageofclayton.org](mailto:deputyclerk@villageofclayton.org)
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## **9. Additional Notes (Post-Meeting)**

- Following the meeting, Bridgett spoke with a TILT colleague regarding potential interest from Chaz Rorick, a Drinking Water Specialist with NEIWPCCC, in connecting with the CSC Taskforce about the Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program.
- Bridgett has reached out to Mr. Rorick to inquire about his availability to attend a future meeting and provide a presentation to the committee.

## **Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** Cerow Recreation Park