



Climate Smart Kingston Commission
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

**Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission May 25, 2016
Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 4:30-6:00 PM**

Commission Members (Voting): Azriel Alleyne, Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong, Michael D'Arcy (excused), Emilie, Hauser Nick Hvodza, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman (excused),

Commission Members (Non-Voting):

Nolan Bastianelli (excused), Casey Schwarz (excused), Amanda LaValle

Ex-Officio Members: Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development-excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak, Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Kingston Dept of Public Works (not present)

Guests: Jess Mullen (Town and Village of New Paltz Climate Action Coalition), Gary Pennock, Ron Leonard (Ulster County Smart Communities Committee)

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this time. Jess Town of Village of NP look forward to learning from Climate Smart certification process.
- II. **Review and Approval April 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Courtney Strong and seconded by Commissioner Alleyne, the commissioners present unanimously approved the minutes to the April meeting as amended.
- III. **Old Business**
 1. **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Recommendations:** The commissioners reviewed the Climate Action Plan matrix including the tracking timeline regarding energy, environmental and economic sustainability with respect to 2020 goals. Discussion ensued concerning tracking data including at the state level, and specific CAP implementation activities the NYS Energy Conservation Construction Code update which may be relevant to Kingston Building Safety and biodiesel fuel for Ulster County buses which fuel may be cleaner but not necessarily cheaper. Chairperson Noble indicated that she has the underlying data that Rich Schiafo used for the Kingston Climate Action Plan which Commissioners Hvodva and Pepper will review with Chairperson Noble.
 2. **City Initiatives** (updates from City staff): Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Courtney Strong and seconded by Commissioner Pepper. The Commissioners present voted to accept the offer by Commissioner D'Arcy to serve as liaison to the Kingston Common Council as Resolution # 3 of 2016.
 - i. **Coordination:** City Department involvement in the Climate Action Plan implementation process with respect to integrating the CAP into various City plans and procedures such as coordinating expedited solar permits with Building Safety and reviewing the City Capital Plan for longer-term action consistent with the CAP recommendations and energy priorities. As an action item, Commissioner Alleyne will review Wendell Flex Tech Energy Study.
 - ii. **Renewables**

1. **Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium:** Commissioner Courtney Strong discussed the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium LED municipal street lighting initiative which aims to assist with creating a more affordable pathway to LED street light conversion including that in the City of Kingston. With NYSERDA funding, the consortium is providing support for procurement of LED light fixtures and aggregation regarding purchase and maintenance of same in municipalities in the Hudson Valley counties of Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Westchester.
<http://courtneystrong.com/services/mid-hudson-streetlight-consortium/>
2. **Solar initiatives:** The Chairperson discussed community solar while Commissioner Courtney Strong discussed community distributed integration and community choice aggregation and Sustainable CUNY has DOE funding for LIDAR mapping for solar possibilities
<http://www.cuny.edu/about/resources/sustainability/nyssolar.html>
<http://www.nycsolarmap.com/>
 Commissioner Courtney Strong further discussed solar initiative efforts by Sustainable Westchester and solar imitative efforts by Energize NY whose executive director is Mark Thielking.
<http://sustainablewestchester.org/hidden-latest-news/64-solar-resources>
<http://energizeny.org/about-energizeny>
- iii. **Electric Vehicles:** Commissioner LaValle discussed pending bidding on the first Ulster County electric vehicle to be utilized for traffic enforcement. Charging stations for electric vehicles as part of a county tourism initiative. Commissioner Broad discussed National Electric Vehicle Week to be promoted in Kingston and mentioned the website [plugshare.com](http://www.plugshare.com) She is doing an event in Binghamton on Sept. 10 so she suggested coordinating an event weekend of Sept 17. As an action item Commissioner Broad agreed to chair the event in Kingston with assistance from Commissioners Pepper and Alleyne as well as Jess Mullen. Discussion also included mention of the following mapping website for electric vehicle charging stations:
<http://www.plugshare.com/>
 Link to National Electric Vehicle Week: <https://driveelectricweek.org/>
- iv. **Sustainable Resource Management-** The Chairperson discussed inclusion of green infrastructure at the Uptown Kingston parking lots indicating she will be providing specifications regarding bioretention, permeable pavers and tree plantings.
- v. **Outreach and Education- Junior Naturalist Program:** The Chairperson indicated that there are still enrollment openings and scholarships available for the Junior Naturalist Program, Link: <http://kingston-ny.gov/environment>
3. **Community Initiatives:**
 - i. **Zoning:** Commissioner Hauser reported to the Commission regarding the City of Kingston zoning update with City Planner Suzanne Cahill. As an action item Commissioner Pepper will coordinate comments on Climate Action Plan recommendations derived from both the CAP and the matrix.
 - ii. **Renewables and Energy Efficiency**
 1. **Solarize Saugerties (John) :** Commissioner Wackman provided a brochure update. Link to the website:
<http://solarize-hudsonvalley.org/solarize-campaigns/solarize-saugerties/about-saugerties/>
 2. **Community Choice Aggregation (Betta):** Commissioner Broad discussed the recent Public Service Commission (PSC) order providing communities in New York State with the opportunity to negotiate contracts for more favorable rates and cleaner electricity supply.
 3. **Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) PSC Public Hearings:** A Public Hearings and informational sessions are to be held on Thursday May 26, at 2:00 and 6:00pm

with respect to providing information and taking public comments on Governor Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard mandating that 50 percent of all electricity consumed in New York by 2030 come from clean and renewable energy sources. The proposed Clean Energy mandate also includes a proposal to support upstate nuclear power and provisions to ensure that the State meets its goal of 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050.

4. 10% Challenge (Michael): Commissioner D'Arcy provided the Commissioners with a written update and progress report.

IV. New Business

- V. **Announcements/Communications/Events:** See above under Electric Vehicles, Solarize Saugerties
- VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:02PM upon motion by Commissioner Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Pepper and unanimous acclamation of the Commissioners present.
Next Meeting Wed June 22, 4:30-6:00pm, Kingston City Hall

Vision: The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.