

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held Via Audio Webinar**  
**Pursuant To Temporary Emergency Orders**

**Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Montgomery & Jonke**

**Tuesday**

**6:00PM**

**March 16, 2021**

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:03 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Jonke, Montgomery and Chairman Gouldman were present.

**Item #3 - Discussion/Update/Climate Smart Initiatives**

Chairman Gouldman stated they would hear from the Putnam County Climate Smart Coordinator Lauri Taylor and Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinators, Roberto Muller and Krystal Ford. He expressed his appreciation to Legislator Montgomery for requesting this matter be brought back for discussion and invited her to speak to the agenda item.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her appreciation to Chairman Gouldman for agreeing to place this matter on the agenda. She stated this is good timing so we can hear from Philipstown's outgoing Climate Smart Coordinator and incoming Climate Smart Coordinator. She stated they will share the exciting news of achieving the Bronze Status, checking off 16 action items, that are required. She stated as we approach the end of March hopefully New York State will announce their new Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) information, which involves Climate Smart initiatives and funding we could apply for if we work towards the action items.

Putnam County Climate Smart Coordinator Lauri Taylor stated before being made the coordinator for the County, she did not have a lot of understanding of the program. She stated she did take some time to educate herself and then got her department up to speed with the program. She stated she has been working with several groups that are working with Climate Smart. She stated Sustainable Putnam has been great at organizing the Climate Smart Coordinators (Coordinators) from Philipstown, Putnam Valley and the Town of Kent. She stated she also has been working with Hudson Valley Regional Council, NYS Clean Energy Community Coordinator Carla Castillo and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust Conservation and Climate Communities. She stated we have all been working together to reach the goals and initiatives. She stated she believes that is the best approach. She stated she does not believe anyone needs to reinvent the wheel and supports the approach to work together. She stated recently a Climate Smart webpage was placed on the County's website. She stated it may still need some tweaking but wanted to have a page that people could go to gather some information. She stated working with the Capital Projects Committee, named the Climate Smart Task Force, she is aware of the work and focus being put into the Article 9 implementations. She spoke to some of those actions working toward energy efficiencies in the County facilities. She stated she is putting together a memo to all of the Department Heads because the Highway Department and herself should not be the only ones shouldering this initiative for the County. She stated

there are areas where the different departments could assist in checking the boxes to meet the bronze or silver status. She stated hopefully soon the County will be meeting its certification status as well.

Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Krystal Ford stated she just took over the coordinator position from Roberto Muller in January of 2021. She stated they have just received their Bronze Certification, as Legislator Montgomery mentioned. She explained it was a comprehensive list of actions that were taken to achieve the status. She spoke to some of what was accomplished and what they are working towards. She stated Roberto Muller would speak to the grant funding.

Former Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Roberto Muller stated it took them three (3) years to achieve their Bronze Certification. He stated over the course of the three (3) years the 16 Climate Smart actions were completed. He stated some of which were low cost and able to be carried out by volunteers and government staff. He stated other actions were more capital intensive. He stated they also had some private fundraising that was conducted through a local non-profit called the Ecological Citizens' Project, based in Garrison, New York. He stated they learned that was a great approach to maintain credibility and trust for the programs. He spoke to the positives of that partnership. He continued to speak about their work in Climate Smart and climate change, which the Climate Smart actions have a current and soon to come affect on climate change. He continued to speak to the actions they have completed, the points received for the particular action, and mentioned the cost of each action to the Town and mentioned if there was grant funding available and whether they were able to access it.

Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Krystal Ford stated they recognize there was a great deal of information presented so if anyone had any questions, they are happy to address them.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her appreciation to Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Krystal Ford and Former Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Roberto Muller for all that they have done for the Philipstown community. She questioned if this information is on their website and is there a total amount of monies received through grants and money spent.

Former Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Roberto Muller stated he does has not totaled that up, but it would be easy enough to do, as they are on a spread sheet.

Legislator Montgomery stated that would be great, and requested the information be posted to their website. She stated she believes that is valuable information, and it would demonstrate how participating in this program does pay off. She complimented them for their action in engaging the public in the process.

Former Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Roberto Muller stated they will post the information on the current website, however for the record they are currently in the process of updating their website platform. He stated they will make sure the information is transferred to the new website. He stated they will share a copy of the referenced spreadsheet with the Members of this committee.

Legislator Nacerino expressed her appreciation to both presenters for their very comprehensive presentation. She stated it is evident that they have moved forward with this initiative, as we have at the county level as well. She stated many of the action item boxes have been checked off by the County. She stated the County Transportation Facility has recently been upgraded and the department has right sized their fleet, for better fuel efficiency. She stated the diesel vehicles have been eliminated altogether. She stated LED lighting has been installed in the Transportation Facility and they have upgraded the heating and air-conditioning efficiencies.

Legislator Sullivan stated he believes NYSEG will come to your home and pickup old appliances and give you a \$35.00 credit. He stated it is another good option for our taxpayers to use effectively. He expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

Former Philipstown Climate Smart Coordinator Roberto Muller stated Central Hudson has a similar program, and he spoke to the specifics that he is aware of with that program.

Legislator Montgomery questioned when the County Executive established the Climate Smart Committee, she stated it was the Capital Projects Committee that would be the Task Force for Climate Smart. She stated she is a member of the Capital Projects Committee, yet she has never been invited or attended a meeting. She stated, also on the County Website, she is not listed as being a member of the Climate Smart Task Force.

Chairman Gouldman stated that is a good question and will request it be addressed.

Legislator Montgomery stated in her discussions with other Counties she has learned that Ulster County, which is more of an in-house Climate Smart Task Force has received their Bronze Certification. She stated Dutchess County has had the Silver status since 2016, and their Climate Smart Task Force is made up community members, like Philipstown. She stated she was hopeful when she put this forward to the Legislature that we would engage the community, who wanted to see this done, and allow community members to be part of the County's Climate Smart Task Force. She stated the community members, Krystal Ford and Roberto Muller, you cannot get better than them. She stated they have accomplished so much in a very short period of time. She stated as the minority member of the Capital Projects Committee, she should be a part of the Climate Smart Task Force. She stated she would like to be a part of it. She stated she was a big part of it in Philipstown and knows a lot about it and is eager to help.

Chairman Gouldman stated everything is a work in progress and it took Philipstown three (3) years to get to their current level. He stated hopefully in the next year the County will be close to where Philipstown is.

Legislator Sullivan questioned Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo if Legislator Montgomery is correct that she is a minority member of the Capital Project Committee. He stated he knows she is the minority member of the Budget and Finance Committee. He stated Legislator Albano as Chair of the Physical Services Committee is a member of the County Executive's Capital Projects Committee.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo requested that the Clerk of the Legislature confirm who the Legislative members are that are members of the Capital Projects Committee.

Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld stated there are three (3) Legislative representatives on the Capital Projects Committee: Chair of the Legislature, Chairman of the Physical Services Committee, and the Minority Leader.

Legislator Sullivan stated he believes this may be getting confused with the members of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo and Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld confirmed all of the Legislators are members of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Chairman Gouldman stated this will be addressed and if there are any changes needed, they will be made.

**Item #4 - Other Business None**

**Item #5 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:50 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.