

Attending:

Lindsay Audin

Joel Gingold

Carl Grimm

Brian Pugh (arrived 11:45 am)

Matt Rubenstein (arrived 11:15 am)

Greg Schmidt

Absent:

Niall Kelleher

Look for underlined commitments to be fulfilled BEFORE our next meeting. Also note [bracketed] content providing information subsequent to the meeting.

Old/ongoing business:

Quick updates/holdovers/follow-ups/status of:

- microgrid project: Matt and Lindsay reviewed findings from their review of the full Hitachi microgrid study. Some assumptions were questioned, especially its conclusion that the microgrid could be installed that would yield a return-on-investment (ROI) of 6-8%. Chief among them was an assumed average outage rate of 2.3 days (~55 hours) per year for all 20 years of the analysis. Historically, local outages have not been anywhere near that rate. Con Ed recently reported that it had reinforced electric service to the area consisting of ShopRite, the Gulf gas station, the Croton Commons, and the train station, thus reducing the likelihood and duration of outages for them. Since much of the proposed microgrid's capacity would have served some of those sites, the potential value of the microgrid may have been reduced by the utility's actions. Without the projected outage rate, the microgrid would have a ROI of -15.6% (i.e., a money loser for its stakeholders).

A review of the study's references found that a significant amount of the energy data it used was simulated rather than actual. Because some of the major stakeholders (e.g., ShopRite) had not provided actual usage data, the study instead used average data from a national survey of buildings (called CBECS). While perhaps appropriate for a global study of possible microgrids, CBECS data cannot be used to analyze the energy use for specific sites.

To move ahead on Phase 2 (i.e., design development), Hitachi indicated that the stakeholders (of which the Village is one) would need to provide \$600,000 to \$800,000 in funding. No NYSERDA funding would be available since the deadline for filing for it had already passed.

To assess the interest among stakeholders in proceeding with Phase 2, the Committee asked the Village (i.e., Eric Morrissey) to query them on their interest. Eric emailed them on Oct. 14, but (as of Oct. 25) none had responded.

- energy audit of Muni Bldg: If the microgrid is not developed, the energy audit that could have been part of it will not occur. As discussed below, it may be possible to fold part of that task into the CEC grant and project discussed below.

- gas conversion project for homes: All those who participated in the gas survey and indicated interest in securing gas service are being notified by the Village (via Eric) of their status, based on Con Ed's

groupings. Group A consisted of those who were found to have an existing gas line outside their homes, and could proceed without needing to involve their neighbors. Each received instructions on proceeding that included our vetted list of 3 gas conversion contractors. Group C involved those sites that were too far away from an existing line to be considered for gas service. As of Oct. 18, all of the above had been notified of their statuses.

Those in Group B could receive gas service if several people on their street committed at the same time to converting their boilers or furnaces to use gas. Con Ed had created “clusters”, i.e., lists of those on each street that would need to convert to get service. Those clusters are being notified a few a time to allow time to address their responses. As needed, Con Ed would attend meetings to explain how those homeowners can work together to secure service.

- Muni Bldg boiler conversion: The RFP was released to many contractors, with bids due by Nov. 3. Greg asked if the Con Ed work on a gas line outside the Muni Bldg was being coordinated with installation of gas service for that building. Lindsay agreed to query Dan O'Connor on the matter.

New/ongoing business:

1. status of Green Community event efforts – That event essentially got morphed into the plastic bag ban discussed below. The Committee discussed instead posting what would have been discussed (e.g., proper disposal/recycling of household waste not presently handled by the Village) on our web page, but no action was taken.

2. pursuing a grant under the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program – Joel expanded on the status of the Village with regard to the tasks that must be completed as prerequisites to an application. We are close to or have completed the required 4 tasks, but documentation is needed on some of them. Matt attended a meeting in Newburgh at which NYSERDA laid out the CEC program and how to participate in it. He relayed his findings, which encouraged the Committee to proceed with this effort. The following commitments were made to move this process forward:

- Lindsay agreed to help Joel secure some data on past tasks performed by the Village.

- regarding documentation, Doug Hertz will be contacted by Brian to provide data on the Solarize effort.

- Lindsay will help secure the completion percentage of the conversion of street lights to LEDs.

- Joel and Lindsay will review the digitized version of the CEC application for any other issues needing attention before submission.

The Committee discussed possible projects that could be pursued under a grant, the amount for which is limited to either \$50K or \$100K (with more grants to be given for the smaller amount). After some discussion, there was agreement on conversion of fluorescent fixtures to use tubular LED (TLEDs) plug-in lamps and retrofit kits in the Muni Bldg and possibly the garage and fire houses. The project would be designed to meet grant requirements involving replicability and knowledge transfer to other communities. To highlight differences among TLED options, the straight hallway on the 2nd floor of the Muni Bldg would serve as a “lab” showing how 6-8 different TLED types appear next to each other. Because the hall features a row of 9 identical fixtures, viewing from one end would allow all options to be seen at the same time against a fixture containing standard fluorescent lamps. Some

rooms with high ceilings (e.g., courtroom) could be equipped to show the impact on wall illumination of TLEDs with narrow beam spreads. Controls (e.g., occupancy sensor control, bi-level lighting) could be featured elsewhere (e.g., the basement recreation room). Lindsay agreed to flesh out the project for use in the grant request.

3. plastic shopping bag ban – Carl attended a meeting at the Greenburgh Nature Center on Sept. 22 at which (among other topics) a bag ban was discussed. The Croton Climate Initiative (CCI) sponsored an Oct. 12 meeting at the Black Cow attended by roughly 30 Croton citizens. Carl and members of the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) participated. The initial focus was to be an educational meeting on the issue on November 10 at the Library (Carl had reserved the date for the Green Community meeting). Carl subsequently indicated that Lisa Moir of CCI had instead decided to develop a campaign involving petitions and other activities before holding such a meeting. Such prior activity would take place over the next few months, with an event to occur in the spring.

The Committee discussed how to interact with those efforts. Carl agreed to monitor the activities of CCI and others. We briefly discussed what other Westchester towns had done on the issue. New Castle has a ban, and Carl agreed to follow up with a contact person on that town's board. New Rochelle and Hastings also have bans in effect. The latter was sued by local businesses but, after 2 years, that opposition evaporated. Cortlandt's Linda Puglisi has expressed sympathy toward a ban. Despite repeated efforts, Carl has had no success at the County legislative level.

Brian and others suggested we explore voluntary cessation of plastic bag use by retailers before seeking a legislated ban in Croton. Deb Milone (914)737-3600, Exec Director of HV Gateway Chamber of Commerce, was approached by Matt on retailer interest to that end, but has not yet received a response. Matt agreed to follow up with her. Greg agreed to sound out the managers at ShopRite and CVS, as two of the main users of plastic bags, to see they had been managed the issue at their other stores, such as in Hastings.

The group agreed to a proposal that, after such contacts had been made, local stakeholders would be invited to a private meeting before January to assess a non-legislative cessation of plastic bags. They would then be asked to speak on their concerns at a Village work session early in the coming year. The goal would be secure agreement rather than confrontation. Brian agreed to draft an invitation to the private meeting, to be signed by Niall as Committee chair.

4. promoting electric vehicles (EV) – None of the EV dealers contacted by Brian and Lindsay came through with cars to show at the Rotary car show. A more controllable EV event was discussed. At the CET Fall Festival at which Matt staffed a table, he met Seth Weintraub, a Croton web journalist who runs Electrek, a site featuring articles on electric transportation. Matt will follow up on having Seth come to our November meeting to discuss a possible panel discussion. That event could include several local EV owners with Seth as the main speaker. If held at the Library, the speakers' cars could be shown in the parking lot.

Matt also agreed to follow up with Martin Gariepy on specs for 2017/18 replacements for Village cars, with an eye to seeking that some of those not used for police work be hybrid EVs. Greg pointed out the Village's preference for Ford cars, and that any changes to vehicle maintenance procedures (if EVs are in use) will require attention.

5. meeting with Conservation Advisory Council (CAC): Brian and Lindsay attended the Oct. 5 meeting and discussed how the two committees may interact. The end result was a draft memo on future cooperation, which is attached at the end of these minutes. We await CAC's response to it.

New items:

Matt participate in a Sept. 24 outdoor PTA Fall Festival event at CET. He set up a table exhibit with our banner and a solar device and handed out Committee flyers.

In response to requests for information on options for heating homes, Lindsay produced and distributed to the Committee a draft 12-page document addressing the issues. He proposed it as a possible addition to our web page. All members were asked to review it and bring comments to the November meeting. Matt agreed to secure a proposal for a ground source heat pump installation at a local home to provide an alternative price to that shown in the draft.

Janine King asked that all requests for information from Village staff be routed to Lindsay so he may gather them into fewer emails to better determine how to distribute responses to them.

To better organize the Committee's efforts, Lindsay asked for concurrence on assigning "project manager" (PM) status to members so that responsibility on various efforts was clearly established. There was no disagreement on the following PM assignments:

- facility efficiency options: Lindsay
- plastic bag ban: Carl
- CEC grant pursuit: Joel
- EV promotional efforts: Brian
- web content and posting: Matt

While others may participate in any of the above, final responsibility will be held by the PMs. So that their issues may be addressed while all others are present, PMs will be expected to arrive on time to our meetings.

Niall was unable to attend the October meeting, and sent the following note. "The Farmer's Market has its own composting bin in the parking lot and encourages regular visitors to bring their compost to the market to deposit there if they do not have their own composting bin at home. We, as a group, should do more to promote composting in Croton. Statistically, 24% of our waste is compostable. If everyone in Croton composted we would reduce our waste by 25% and probably our waste bills by even more, since we pay by weight (and compost tends to be wet and heavy) to burn our trash."

The next meeting date was set for Sunday November 13 at 10:30 AM.

Memo on Cooperation Between the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and the Sustainability Committee (SC) – 10/8/16 draft

Having met on 10/5/16 and discussed ways to work together for the mutual good of the Village of Croton and its environment, the CAC and SC will endeavor to share information and organizing of their efforts.

1. SC looks forward to CAC's suggestions and input on the Community Gardens project maintained by the SC.
2. The SC will offer its resources and ideas toward enhancing the impact of CAC's Earth Day event.
3. The two groups will share email and other contact lists as a way to maximize community participation in their projects.
4. The SC will provide a speaker and Powerpoint presentation on "how to mitigate your carbon footprint" for CAC's May 9, 2017 Green Living series event.
5. The two groups will coordinate their event schedules to avoid conflicting dates.
6. When either group sees a way to involve the other for the mutual benefit of the two committees, each will feel free to raise it at the others' meeting, with appropriate notice and agenda opportunity.