

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 26, 2021**

Councilpersons present:

Supervisor Kennan
Councilman Ralph Fedele
Councilman George Kaye
Councilman John Midwood
Councilwoman Lana Morrison

Councilpersons absent:

The August 26, 2021 meeting was held via Zoom web conference. Supervisor Kennan and Deputy Clerk Wheatley were present at Town Hall. Councilmen Fedele, Midwood, and Kaye as well as Councilwoman Morrison were in attendance from other locations via the Zoom web conference.

Call to order:

Supervisor Kennan opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Deputy Clerk Wheatley conducted a roll call.

SUPERVISOR KENNAN:	HERE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE:	HERE
COUNCILMAN KAYE:	HERE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD:	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON:	HERE

Introduction by Town Supervisor:

Supervisor Kennan expressed his appreciation of the hard work of the Town's Climate Smart Communities Task Force. He described the relevance and importance of the Town's policies and procedures to both resiliency and mitigation strategies.

Description of PE7 Climate Smart Resiliency Planning:

Task Force leader Kathy Chow introduced the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning action (PE7) which is "designed to stimulate ideas & collaboration among local government staff & officials" to proactively plan for a changing climate.

This is one of three priority actions included in the 2018 DEC OCC grant that the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) helped secure. That grant and the involvement of HVA launched North East and Millerton on their respective Climate Smart Community paths to bronze certification.

Once complete, the finalized report from HVA will be delivered to the Boards.

Presentation of CSRP Tool, as developed by HVA for the Town of North East:

Amanda Cabanillas from HVA explained the official checklist for the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning tool (CSRP) used to identify missing policies and procedures for community resiliency in five categories and their findings which are documented in the report.

1. Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
2. Public Outreach and Engagement
3. Integration of Municipal Plans
4. Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
5. Hazard Mitigation Implementation

Gaps in Town, Village, and joint plans and policies were identified, and opportunities were presented.

A brief discussion followed.

Supervisor Kennan showed the hardcopies of the 2018 County Hazard Mitigation Plan (which is online) and Town Emergency Operations Plan (which is not). He called out flooding and storms as the most frequent threats to be aware of and prepared for.

Kathy Chow reviewed some activities the Climate Smart Task Force is already doing and some suggestions for integrating the recommendations into other Town and Village processes currently underway. An example being the updating zoning and building codes per the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

HVA has already done the big job of collecting and organizing the documents for review. Kathy Chow offered the CSC website as an available place to store those files online to be accessible to the Boards if wanted.

Supervisor Kennan suggested collaboration with fire district and ambulance services to further locate vulnerable populations on maps.

Councilmen Kaye and Fedele and Councilwoman Morrison each spoke about historical weather-related events that they have knowledge of. The Task Force will follow up with them. Councilman Kaye recalled the flood on South Center Street for the Hurricane of 1955. Other locals to interview would be Bernie Silvernail and Jim Campbell.

Mike Jastremski, a Certified Floodplain Manager, described the role and advantages of engaging a floodplain manager in planning and zoning. (The Town's Building Inspector Ken McLaughlin is also certified). Mr. Jastremski offered his expertise in those discussions. He warned to be sure to look at the effects that are amplified by climate change.

Presentation of two possible action items:

Laurie Kerr presented a snapshot of two suggested resolutions for consideration for the Green Power Procurement Policy for the Town of North East which entails

1. Purchase of green energy for Town owned buildings
2. Study for possible installation of solar power on the planned new Highway Garage

Green Purchasing Policy for the Town of North East stipulates buying green supplies in two categories. Some which are required to be green and others wherever possible/practical. She highlighted that the biggest category, road department materials, are not part of this policy.

Councilman John Midwood asked about the financial implications of using renewable power. Laurie agreed to investigate sources and provide a comparison.

Supervisor Kennan talked about the small impact that an individual town like ours might have, relative to the larger big climate change picture, but noted that the cumulative effect of all the smaller NY towns working together towards a shared objective can be significant.

Town of North East
Town Board
Minutes
August 26, 2021

Kathy Chow reiterated that the Town mentality of sustainability is a model for residents - which is the next frontier and where the bigger impact is realized.

Supervisor Kennan thanked the Task Force and HVA for their hard work and Councilman Kaye for initiating the program.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Councilman Midwood, seconded by Councilman Kaye, the following was:

ADOPTED – AYES – (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)
NAYES – 0

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marcella Wheatley
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: October 14, 2021