

Village of Lansing NY Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Taskforce Meeting

Minutes

A meeting of the Village of Lansing NY Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Taskforce was held on May 28, 2025, at 4 PM, at the Village of Lansing Office, 2405 North Triphammer Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 and via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

Present In-Person: Jerry Sheng (CSC Taskforce Coordinator-Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County), J. Christopher Skawski (CEC Taskforce Coordinator-Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County), Kathleen Yen (CSC/CEC Village of Lansing NY Taskforce member, co-chair)

Present by Zoom: Mayor Ronny Hardaway (Village of Lansing NY CSC/CEC Taskforce coordinator and co-Chair); Patrick Gillespie and Lynn Leopold (Village of Lansing NY CSC/CEC Taskforce members)

Call To Order and Introductions: Kathleen Yen called the meeting to order at 4 PM., welcomed everyone, including new member, Patrick Gillespie, and asked each person to introduce themselves.

Mayor Ronny Hardaway, CSC/CEC Coordinator and Co-Chair, raised *the issue with three trustees in attendance (thereby representing a quorum of trustees in the meeting)*. Hardaway, Gillespie and Yen are Village Trustees. *Trustees agreed that for any meeting where there are more than (2) two trustees in attendance, trustees will determine, in the meeting, who will be the two voting trustee members. For this meeting, the voting members were Kathleen Yen and Ronny Hardaway with Patrick Gillespie designated as an observer.*

Updates and Discussion:

An overview of the responsibilities was provided by Ronny Hardaway. [Resolutions #7160 and #7161 - May 5, 2025 Board of Trustees minutes.

Meeting Schedule: A tentative meeting schedule was set for the last Thursday of the month, from 1:00 – 2:00 PM, at the Village of Lansing Office NY, 2405 North Triphammer Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 and via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing. **The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 1-2 PM.**

Progress Updates:

Chris Skawski provided an overview of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program and the technical support and funding available. He provided an update on village energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction actions completed, and grant awards the village received and are available for the village to use.

- The Village earned 2600 points for actions such as benchmarking government building energy use, and community education and connection to two campaigns (solar, heat pumps).
- Two \$5,000 grants totaling \$10,000 were awarded to the village and are available in the clean energy fund. There was discussion about eligible uses such as establishing a community fund for mini grants, and/or specific energy reduction and efficiency projects (e.g. electric landscaping equipment, sidewalk improvements, rain barrels, shade structures, roof solar, etc.).
- Chris will follow up and send additional eligible use information and examples before the next meeting.

Jerry Sheng provided an overview of the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, summarized village sustainability actions completed, and provided an update on certification status.

- The Village application for certification as a Climate Smart Community (Bronze level) was submitted in April 2025 and the Village should receive notification of the results in early June (~June 6th).
- Additional documentation e.g. before/after photos for culverts and dams, and clarification of village/village representative's involvement in the creation of the *Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan* and *Tompkins County Water Quality Strategy* may be needed.

Planning and Implementation Grant Information and Discussion:

Chris and Jerry provided information on planning and implementation grants available using the state consolidated funding application. Applications are due the end of July.

- Discussion focused on funding for a stormwater and ditch network diversion mapping/engineering, and sidewalk expansion projects, with involvement from John Courtney (Village Department of Public Works Supervisor), and from Mike Scott (Village Code Enforcement Officer and Stormwater Management Officer). Ronny will follow up with staff, Chris will send stormwater grant information, and Jerry will send funding webinar information and feedback on comprehensive plan sustainability elements.

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NYS Local Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan:

Jerry provided an overview of the NYS Local Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan and highlighted some of the major differences between a hazard mitigation plan (HMP) and a broader, long-range systems-approach climate adaptation plan (CAP). DEC has free tools to use for vulnerability assessment and anticipatory long-term impact scenarios. The group consensus was to pursue Climate Adaptation Planning and potential collaboration with the Town of Lansing.

Village of Lansing Website and Access to Taskforce Information: [see village website (<https://vlansing.org/climate-smart-communities/>)] Ronny Hardaway reported that CSC/CEC taskforce information on the Village website was update and asked if there was a way for the public to be able to view the DEC dashboard actions and also the village status of those actions (e.g. planned, in-progress, completed, submitted, approved) without having to enter action status updates on a separate excel checklist on the village website. Jerry will follow-up.

Note: The DEC CSC “Local Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan Guidance and Template” and a plan example were provided by Jerry and forwarded to members before the meeting.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Yen