

Draft Minutes of Binghamton CCE Commission

August 15, 2024

Attendance

Members Present:

Luke Day

Richard Jannaccio

Julian Shepherd

Thomas Costello

Ashley Seyfried

Scott Lauffer

Members absent:

Eric Denk

Darius Bang

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Hadassah Mativetsky

Guests present:

Aviva Friedman

Public comment by Aviva Friedman: "I like the environment."

Motion to approve June 20 minutes – approved 5 for, 1 abstention

Motion to approve May 9 minutes withdrawn

Luke Day reported that he had requested data from DPW through a FOIL. They appear to have stopped collecting data in 2013.

Previous Business:

Major Recommendations to the Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Summary of the three actions we will share with City Council:

1. Develop SMART goals for all CAP Goals (goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound); ex: target quantities and goal attainment dates, and identify responsible implementors/agencies/departments.
2. DEC recommends at least one community-wide GHG reduction target (currently net zero by 2035), and a set of prioritized initiatives for reducing GHG emissions.
 - Develop a survey and provide a community input opportunity for the prioritization of City GHG-reduction measures (Ms. Seyfried to develop, Councilwoman Mativetsky to share with the Southside Neighborhood Assembly as a pilot, then to be distributed across the City).
3. Improve the frequency and accuracy of data collection on GHG-related CAP activities, especially fuel, natural gas and electricity usage.
 - Develop methods and ongoing practices for the collection of data from departments and sharing with the Commission for continuous benchmarking and review.

Motion to forward these 3 action items made by Ashley S, second by Richard J, approved 6-0

The remaining actions as proposed by Julian Shepherd were determined to be outside the initial scope of looking at GHG reductions and will be addressed at a later time:

4. Assessment of aquatic resources and mitigation of flood risk.
 - Ashley Seyfried said on the climate smart communities program, flood mitigation does not need to be considered in the CAP. The commission can analyze flooding under other actions.
5. Quantify resource requirements for accomplishing goals.
 - which departments?
6. Public transportation needs review in terms of efficiency, accessibility, ridership, and frequency.
 - BMTS and BC Transit also do these reports
7. Consideration of residential housing needs separation of commercial (rental) property vs. single-family/owner-occupied property. Construction of new affordable housing need consideration.
8. Consideration of a bike-share program and more bike-friendly roadways.
9. Increase planting of trees on streets and city properties to capacity.

10. Broaden membership of Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee to be more independent and representative of city population. – question if whether it is active

11. Hold public comment meeting(s) on draft CAP

Committee Reports

1. ByLaws – commission members to review and provide comments on Basecamp. It was decided by Luke D to hold off on commission name change.
2. Ecotoxicology – the water quality task force reviewed 2023 Water Quality Report. Dr. Paul Connett presented the findings of the Fluoridation Action Network and others on the danger of fluoridation in municipal drinking water.
3. Managed Native Gardens Task Force hasn't meet yet but is in collaboration with a master garden. Ashley S pointed out that the SRBC had \$5,000 grants available for gardens.

City Badges Updated – Hadassah M said the city is looking at revoking badges for all.

City Blue Bags - Luke D said he looked into the trash and recycling program in Cortland using containers. He and Councilman Nate Hotchkiss will visit there next month.

New Business:

New York State Association of Conservation Advisory Commissions (NYSACC) contacted Luke D and invited the commission to join. They are a collection of municipalities and counties that have volunteer land use or energy use advisory commissions.

Motion by Richard J to join NYSACC, seconded by Tom C. Approved 6-0.

Luke D said he will send in the \$75 membership fee.

Next meeting: September 19 at 1:15 pm

Richard J voted to adjourn, seconded by Tom C. Approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05

Submitted by Scott Lauffer, acting secretary