

Town of Austerlitz

Minutes of the Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting

March 9, 2023

Attendees: Nan Stolzenburg/Planner and CPAC Members Greg Vogler, Tim Stalker, Barbara Smith, Nick Van Alstyne and David Harrison

1. Approval of meetings minutes from February 9, 2023. Approved 5-0
2. Climate Action Plan Presentation (Paige Ruane/Jere Wrightsman)

Paige Ruane from the Climate Committee gave the CPAC an overview the proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Government Operations. Paige summarized the plan and emphasized that it is aspirational. Paige provided a supplemental document that states the CAP “Should be noted that these are widely understood to be aspirational and there is no consequence for falling short of the goals expressed therein. There is also a section on the last page that expresses flexibility on adjusting strategy if targets are not fulfilled.”

It was agreed that CPAC would provide any comments to the Chair by 3/24/2023 who will compile and redistribute to CPAC and Jere Wrightsman/Paige Ruane. A meeting will then be organized to see if questions can be answered, and if any revisions can be made. The Climate Committee has the option to not include the CAP in the Comp Plan. The Town Board will need to approve the CAP regardless (after a public hearing).

Paige also discussed how the CAP fits into the broader objective of developing plans to lower greenhouse gases across the town, including a Community CAP. The Community CAP, like the Government CAP, will not include mandates but will instead provide information and plans on how these GHGs can be reduced so that all of Austerlitz can do our part in combating the climate crisis.

3. Survey Status

Nan provided a preview of the survey responses to date. The survey is open for responses until March 31. There are about 180 responses to date. The completed survey results will be discussed at the April CPAC meeting.

4. Profile and SWOT. Nan is working on revisions to the Profile and SWOT documents that will continue to be revised as the project progresses, e.g., because of the survey, public hearings etc.

5. Maps, NRI Narratives: These continue to be in progress. It was discussed that the maps will not only physical (on paper) but be available online with a tool analyze them by parcel. This will be especially useful to the Planning Board and the ZBA.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30 at the Austerlitz Town Hall