

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Deb Gondek, Tim Pieper, Erin Robinson, Austin Tylec, Justine Stevens, Mike Tuzzo, Elliot Lear, Josh Randall (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Josh McClain (UBRI), Jim Berry

Jim Guido (not yet official member)

Meeting called to order at 4:37 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

1) Approval of June minutes

Austin motion to accept; Tim 2nd. Carried.

2) Discussion of CSC Status Update

- a. Survey of Climate Smart Communities
 - i. Survey of work completed by Austin on behalf of North Tonawanda
- b. Standing Discussion: 'Committee' or 'Commission'?
 - i. Will postpone discussion until a further date, possibly until November or December
- c. LWRP/Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Priorities Discussion. Connect in light of Niagara County Development
 - i. Mike Shared update on plans, final version will be sent out with 30 day review period prior to publishing
 - ii. Public meeting for twin cities highway next month (redesign of the twin cities highway and adjacent structures)
 - iii. Tim urged for recommendation for Klydel Wetlands in the zoning plan for to reinforce natural resource protection

3) Campaign and Research Area Updates

- a. Dighost (now DigiPower X) - name change and general updates
 - i. Deb gave update on recent court appearance for 4 noise ordinance violations
 - ii. DigiPower X will plead not guilty to violations, Austin will continue to work with the city attorney to create more clear language on specific citations. Next court date will be September 9th
 - iii. Deb suggested extending the moratorium until proposed zoning changes are in place.
- b. Natural Resource Inventory
 - i. Tim recommended forming a sub committee to work on the report
 - ii. Josh mentioned that some areas of the report may need specialist knowledge, however that may be going above and beyond the scope of the report.
- c. Home for Gnome Green Lawn Campaign - Water use and campaign ideas
 - i. Will postpone until the fall and continue to promote on social media
- d. Other general priority areas ideas?
 - i. Justine compiled a list of "green initiatives" that may should be considered for implementation
 - ii. Free rain barrel and compost bin program from Niagara County

4) Community Connections

- a. Promote both Home for Gnome Green Lawn Campaign, and Rain barrel and compost bin program on social media

5) Other Business

- a. Erin mentioned a new solar farm has been completed and was notified that she will be eligible for the program on next month's bill.

Meeting adjourned 5:30ish. Motion by Austin, Deb 2nd

Next Meeting: September 10, 2025, City Hall, 4:30pm