

## Agenda

### NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 4:30 pm City Hall, North Tonawanda

**Attendees, In person @ City Hall:** Deb Gondek, Erin Robinson, Austin Tylec, Justine Stevens, Mike Tuzzo, Elliot Lear

**Not Present:** Jim Berry, Tim Pieper

Meeting called to order at 4:37 pm

#### AGENDA TOPICS:

##### 1) Approval of August minutes

Deb motion to accept; Austin 2nd. Carried

##### 2) Discussion of CSC Status Updates

- a. Tim provided updates to Erin- see attached second page.
  - i. Tim and Erin shared updates regarding certification items for the CSC program
  - ii. Mike shared that C&S has received these comments and will implement them into the comp plan
    - 1. Additionally C&S will continue to receive comments until the end of the month (September) after which the comment period will be closed
    - 2. Draft comp plan is available on the Lumber City Development Corporation website
  - iii. Justine shared that the DPW have implemented tracking measures for fleet vehicles, findings will be shared and reported once more data can be collected and potential issues can be addressed
- b. Checklist for ideas and future projects to note

##### 3) Campaign and Research Area Updates

- a. DigiPower X Updates- extension of 2 year moratorium? Court date Sept 9.
  - i. Deb mentioned the plant manager was present in court, DigiPower X's lawyer made a motion to dismiss which was denied and they will be moving on to arraignments
  - ii. Police chief has filed additional citations to Digihost Power X for new noise violations
  - iii. Austin shared updates on the draft noise ordinance, and will continue working with attorneys to iron out the details
- b. Natural Resource Inventory- ER notes from Tim- see attached second page
  - i. Tim shared there has been no new updates, however will continue to research options once the comp plan has been completed
- c. Water use and Fall Campaign ideas, update on rain barrel program, etc- Justine
  - i. Justine shared research regarding rain barrel/compost bin, mentioned there is a scarce supply of providers in the area and suggested collaborating with the existing Erie County program as it is a great deal for residents. Justine will reach out to Erie County to inquire about the program and possible collaboration
  - ii. Justine also mentioned the Farmer Pirates program may be a viable composting solution for the city. There is an existing drop off point in North Tonawanda, however there would need to be more locations to adequately serve the entire community

- iii. Look into the possibility of hosting a workshop to educate residents about composting opportunities
- d. Other general priority area ideas?

#### 4) **Community Connections**

- a. Ideas for further discussion?
  - i. Taskforce members will continue to think of initiatives and share them at the following meeting. Focusing on spring initiatives as there is more opportunity for implementation.

#### 5) **New Business?**

- a. Next meeting, October 8, 4:30.

Meeting adjourned 5:02: Motion by Austin, Elliot 2nd.

#### **CSC Updates From Tim:**

**PE6 City Comprehensive Plan**, I submitted my concerns to the coordinator and Austin. In general I believe the draft plan will hit the minimum requirements of PE6, however from my read some strengthening would be helpful, see what follows.

Support alternative modes of transport (part of PE6 requirement element 1) Suggested electric vehicle charging stations reference in implementation section. It's referenced in existing conditions section, just missing from implementation.

Conserve natural area (part of PE6 requirement element 3): suggested stronger citations on NT Audubon Nature Preserve (aka Klydel) throughout report, and specifically a implementation bullet on take action to change zoning of the preserve from residential to conservation.

Safety (part of PE6 requirement element 4): Suggested "Complete Street" reference in implementation section. It's referenced in existing conditions section, just missing from implementation.

Environmental exposures (part of PE6 requirement element 5): I suggested adding a section relating to the noise issue from industrial sites. Current hot button in city. Basically revising city ordinances (which is in works), and zoning to address noise (or any future environmental issue). Surprised this issue wasn't included in draft plan, and a final solution could be new zoning (something directly related to a comp plan). Without this change I believe we can cover requirement with the brownfield actions in the plan.

**PE6 Natural Resource Inventory**: Not action to report, my focus has been on comp plan. Hope to restart effort in October.

**PE3 Fleet Inventory**: Justine will be reporting findings, I'm suggesting Justine and I meet with Austin in October to come up with a way forward. These should be simple points if data can be collected.