

**Village of Pulaski/Town of Richland
Comprehensive Plan Committee/Climate Smart Task Force
November 4, 2021
In-person meeting, Barclay Court House
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Dawn Holynski, Chairperson representing the Town of Richland; Shawn Doyle, representing the Village of Pulaski; Melissa Wadkinson, representing the Village of Pulaski; Jan Tighe, Mayor representing the Village of Pulaski; Robin Philips, representing the Town of Richland.

Excused: Robin Ford, Donna Gilson (in town board meeting 1st floor)

Guests: Robert Smith, Elizabeth Weimer (Oswego County Office For The Aging), Jennifer Gibbs (community)

Dawn called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Dawn introduced Robert Smith of St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM). Robert gave his background and background of the agency.

Robert is a US army veteran, served in Iraq, he does volunteer work in his region. Past couple years with this agency. There are eight prisms in NYS, SLELO PRISM covers Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Lewis and Oneida Counties.

Mayor Tighe reported that the Village received \$2,000 for resilient trees which were recently planted on St. Rte. 13 in the business section. Robert discussed the proper species of trees for the ‘urban forest’ inside a community.

Robert talked about the spread of invasive species due to climate change. The warmer it gets, the more suitable the conditions are. Some of these species move north as it gets “too warm” for them. Japanese knotweed, phragmites, hogweed, oriental bittersweet (girdles trees), purple loosestrife, Water chestnuts, swallowwort, the problem with these invasives is that they do not have enemies here that keep them in check (other species, bugs) The invasives are categorized into different tiers. It is important to not move soils from region to region, also firewood, boat bilge etc.

Dawn: How do the aquatic species effect our fishery? Answer: concern due to rise in water temperature encourage invasives. Temperature changes can affect metabolism or fish and disease resistance, as well as other things. Newer insects can damage forests (emerald ash borer and others). Less forests, less carbon capture. Loss of forests that shade streams, raises temperatures.

Dawn: how do we stop or mitigate? Report so they can be mapped. Containment, eradication, control of spreading. Shawn spoke on the spread of knotweed and how he has been observing it across New York state.

Robert on Knotweed treatments: best is to avoid spreading, manual removal, various herbicides. It is difficult to eradicate. Robert directed us to the website and he can answer questions regarding that in detail. Volunteers have worked in the summer to inspect boats on a volunteer basis.

Some invasive plants came here from greenhouses as exotic ornamentals.

Discussion on trees suitable for planting in our village and community. Jan said cottonwood cannot be planted in Village as they clog the storm sewer.

Robert talked about site visits and discovery of hemlock Algae in Southwest Oswego. This was treated. Not found on this side of the county yet. Gypsy moths have been here many years, larvae destruction is done when found, encourage others to do. Have been here a long time. Melissa asked about tics. Robert does not deal with; they are aware of the problems. Mr. Smith completed his presentation at 7:12.

Climate Action Plan: Dawn: From Amanda...we need to designate two agenda periods each year. Since our committee has been designated to also be the Climate Smart Task Force, it is required that two meetings per year are designated to discuss such topics. Melissa moves that this meeting be hereby considered a meeting for the Climate Action Plan/Task Force. Shawn 2nd, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

The minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting were read and approved upon motion by Jan Tighe, adding that the village allocated \$2,000 towards expense of CNYRPB for Climate action plan., second by Melissa Wadkinson. All in favor, none opposed.

Goals and Zoning updates: Jan: 2 ½ years on village updates, NYS is months behind and cannot review them in a timely manner. Town attorney is conducting State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR).

News: The Woodlawn Housing Project drawing for seniors was held October 18, review will be conducted with interviews in November. Village will have cement floor for electric chargers soon, and have them done in a month. LED conversions moving on well. We will get the \$5,000 due to community solar sign up. village is adding more points to the goals for the next level. Community solar will save \$2,000 on two buildings lighting cost.

Dawn: the town was to vote on the climate action plan tonight as part of their budget meeting.

Next Meeting: December 2, 2021 at the Barclay Courthouse Grand Jury Room.

Motion to adjourn at 7:27 by Melissa, second by Jan Tighe.
Adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Doyle
Dawn Holynski