

Climate Smart Committee Minutes May 5, 2026

Attendance: Anna Rizzo, Mike Styne, John Sheehan, Sally Lawrence, Mindy Fowler and Jake Miller

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

Clean-up day was very successful. The committee decided that for future tabling events, we should bring our own table to hang our banner. Otherwise, everything went smoothly. We will consider putting fences around the trees to protect them from deer.

Valerie wrote an amazing newsletter for our May edition. The newsletter discusses different lawn alternatives rather than pushing for “No Mow May” due to the adverse effects of not mowing your lawn for a month (ticks, displacement of wildlife when you do mow, violating the state code of keeping grass under 10-12 inches). The newsletter was sent out with the Supervisors newsletter and posted to our website. Our committee is responsible for a newsletter again in September. Composting is a topic we are interested in writing about next.

Sally explained that Kingston has food scrap collecting containers around town for residents to drop off compost. We can start in a limited way at the DPW or Town Hall and get an idea for how many people would be interested in this program. Anna explained that this is popular in dense areas where people can’t just throw it in their backyard. Sand Lake is more rural, but it may benefit residents that live in apartments in Sand Lake. The DPW collects leaves and brush which could be used with our food waste scraps to create healthier compost. If there is demand for this program, the compost would then be available to residents, used at the DPW or by the Garden Club.

The Sand Lake Merchant is having a Spring Market on May 31 from 10am-3pm. We are interested in tabling if enough members can make it. There was discussion on setting up a trivia game, handing out bingo cards, and sharing composting tips with the public at our table.

Lastly, Anna mentioned that the Community and Government GHG reports are in our Google Drive and posted on our website to be reviewed. Once reviewed, we can start some of the other reports such as the Climate Vulnerability Assessment. These reports will give us an idea of where our town emits the most pollution.

REMINDER: Actions can be found on the Climate Smart website linked below.

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>

Adjourned 7:02 P.M.

Next meeting date – June 2, 2026