2-23-2021

Thank you, council members, for hearing my proposal for you to comment on climate warming at each council meeting.

We are in a world-wide worsening climate crisis that is not talked about very much in our city. Climate warming was not mentioned at my zoom church service Sunday, or at the last Glens Falls U-tube council meeting, or at the monthly zoom NAACP meeting, and you get the idea. And yet, climate warming is a planetary disaster with drowning island countries, drought driven migrations, acid oceans, mass extinction of birds and animals, on-going devastating extreme weather. People see the climate news about Texas, Biden's climate team and goals, an upcoming geo-engineering experiment in Sweden, but often don't connect the news to our community. Who's paying attention here? Whose talking about it? Whose taking actions?

I think our community needs to know that you, our council members, have been paying attention, and taking actions right here to mitigate climate warming and reduce our fossil fuel use. Our two committees, the Clean Energy Community committee and the Climate Smart Community task force have fostered energy-wise and successful win-win projects with NYSERDA (NY State Energy Research and Development Authority) - wins for reducing fossil fuel use locally, and financial wins for the city with earned financial awards. The public needs to know, not just with an occasional newspaper article, but by talking about it, the climate crisis, biweekly at council meeting. It's so real, so important. Let the public know that you are paying attention, that you are taking climate warming very seriously with your plans and projects; not to scare people but to address the reality of the climate crisis. It's too important not to. If done earnestly, I think you can tread lightly but meaningfully.

And that WE all can help too. You might consider making suggestions for how the community can respond to climate warming, what actions we citizens can take to temper our fossil fuel use as part of the brief segment on climate action at council meetings. Maybe each of you could share what you are doing. You also might consider adding "Climate Action" to the Glens Falls City website.

You were elected to make sound decisions for our city. Mitigating climate warming may be the wisest decision of all.

Thank you so much!

Diane Collins

Glens Falls resident

Climate Smart Community Task Force member