

AGENDA/MINUTES

PHILMONT CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Minutes of Meeting No. 9

September 14, 2022

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Debra Gitterman, Allison Hoppe, Haley Balconoff, Kelsey West, Tomoko Gurbo, Walter Gurbo

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Haley confirmed that funding from CEC \$5K grant can be spent on “marketing” which includes refreshments served at an event. It was agreed to hold a lightbulb exchange event that included food at the Philmont Terrace Apartments. A date must be established with the on-site administrator. Sarah agreed to take over the administration of this event (via conversation between Sarah and the chair after the meeting).
2. Additional lightbulb exchange events and promotion were discussed to possibly include “reverse Halloween” where offering rather than receiving takes place, distribution from individual’s houses and increased social media – possibly a video. To be discussed further.
3. It was announced that a \$10K NYSEDA grant, through Clean Energy Communities, to the Village is available. It is a points-based grant offered to municipalities having completed a minimum of “high impact actions”. Spending of the grant is limited to pre-approved project types associated with the CSC overall Actions List. Haley suggested using this grant money towards “PE 3 Government Building Energy Audits”. The benefits of taking this route are: it earns CSC “priority” credits, it creates a baseline for municipal energy use and associated GHG inventory which can open the door to other energy-related grants such as for microhydro, and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission already has a consultant on board to do this work at a fixed price per building. Based on these benefits the Task Force agreed to engage in this specific action with Tom taking the lead. The application requires commitment from the Village in the form of a resolution to be requested at the next Trustee meeting. The three buildings to receive what the industry refers to as a Level II energy audit, are Village Hall, Community Center, and Sewage Treatment facility (the library already has a current Level II audit). The Task Force agreed to these terms.
4. The Columbia County Board of Supervisors resolved to engage in Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning which in turn opens the door to local municipalities to engage in the same assessment and planning but tailored to their individual circumstances. The process taking approximately one year is led by consultants from the Cornell Cooperative Extension and would address issues such as flooding, heat stress, drought and emergency response. Philmont with its high-density development on steep slopes creates unique challenges. Also, with the initiation to review the Comprehensive Plan the timing of this assessment and planning is opportune. Application requests endorsement from the Village requiring a resolution from the Village Trustees. The Task Force agreed to these terms with Alison taking the lead and Susan as back-up.
5. Rulemaking for the massive NYS Climate Act legislation passed in 2019 is ongoing. To counter erosion of the original intent by special interest group lobbying, New Yorkers for Clean Power is asking for endorsement of the Scoping Plan, without

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modification, by local municipalities. This would be a request of the Village Trustees. Tom suggested adding a clause to the resolution that addressed the potential conflict between Historic District Designation (exempt from NYS Energy Code) and the Climate Act. Debra suggested raising this issue with Christopher Sgroi of NYSERDA. The Task Force agreed with Debra taking the lead.

6. Discussion of modifying the governance of the Climate Smart Community committee led to the suggestion that those individual members taking on lead positions would become part of a subgroup referred to as the "Task Force". The broader "committee" would perhaps remain for information purposes meeting on a quarterly basis. The individual activity commitment would be either established at this meeting or by email within one week's time. To be discussed further.

7. Arthur King will continue his efforts on creating a logo, for the group. (via conversation between Arthur and the chair after the meeting).

8. Susan confirmed that the County would provide the roadside sign identifying the EV charging station in the parking lot. Will they agree to print specific artwork (CSC logo) on the sign? Susan will take the lead on this.

9. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino