

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 11

November 09, 2022

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Allison Hoppe, Haley Balconoff, Sarah King, Arthur King

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Post “reverse Halloween” the rough estimate of remaining lightbulbs to be distributed as part of the LED exchange is approximately 700. Possibilities for further distribution include the following:
 1. Add a display with a more attractive flier at existing distribution locations – library, McNanns, Food Coop (Sarah will take the lead).
 2. Consider municipal facility change-out possibilities.
 3. Advance the conversation for an offer of a “lightbulb exchange video” to be placed on social media. Under marketing and promotion budget from the CEC \$5K grant we estimated we could pay \$250. The consultant should invoice the full amount with the balance being an “in-kind” donation (Tom will take the lead).
2. The NYSERDA Clean Energy Community PON 3298 (municipal building energy audit) has been granted. The “kick-off” will be an email from Melanie McMahan, NYSERDA’s community liaison. The consultant will be L & S Energy Services, headquartered in Clifton Park. Both will reach out to Jen for coordination. In the meantime, Jen could start accumulating energy use for the three buildings for the past two years. NYSEG usually makes this available online. Tom will take the lead.
3. The Climate Smart Community Certification Program Pledge Element 2.1 – Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Pledge Element 2.5 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan has been granted. Energy data for all buildings has to be accumulated along with streetlights, pumps and mobile fleets (anything that uses fossil fuel or has an electric meter). Fortunately, the same data collected for the building energy audit (above) can be used for this action. For the Climate Action Plan there is a syllabus of climate action that will be reviewed for Philmont application and presented to the Board. This process will not start until early 2023 and is initiated by the Cornell Extension. Tom will take the lead.
4. Climate Smart Community Certification Program to participate in the county-wide preparation of a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan (Pledge Element 7) has been granted to Philmont. This is significant because of the potential collaboration with review of the Comprehensive Plan. Haley Belconoff with the Capitol District Regional Planning Commission will initiate the process probably in early 2023. Alison and Susan will take the lead.
5. Completion of items 2, 3, and 4 will put Philmont’s CSC well within the requirements to meet Bronze Certification. That will put Philmont on the NYS map of CSC’s along with additional grant money. The submission deadlines are January, April and July of each year. The application process is quite arduous (collection of all data associated with each Pledge Element), so I would estimate meeting the July, 2023 or January 2024 deadline and it will require further commitment from task force members as well as the Village.

6. Contact information to enable a tour of the Valatie Micro-hydro facility was received. Also, through the Local Champions program there will be a tour and lecture of the Wappingers Falls installation on Friday, November 18. Tom and Debra will attend with Andrew taking the lead.
7. After researching application of NYS Energy Stretch Code, Tom Paino and Vanessa Bertozzi from Hudson Valley Climate Action Network met with Dan McEneny, Director of Historic Preservation and his two colleagues, Jenny Betsworth and Chelsea Towers to discuss the procedure for projects subject to both codes. First a note of clarification: Projects making a submission for a building permit that are a contributing building in a historic district are exempt from the NYS Energy code. However, municipalities, such as Philmont, that have adopted the NYS Energy “Stretch” code such projects are NOT exempt. Mr. McEneny confirmed this. Mr. McEneny admitted that meeting both codes would be challenging and suggested a “negotiating process” between the owner’s consultant and the reviewing officer although, at the moment, NYSHP does not have an energy specialist staff member. The Hopkins House project was raised as an example where the challenge to re-use existing windows is particularly difficult. Mr. McEneny also recommended speaking with Katie Comeau, the new director of the Preservation League.
8. Arthur and Sarah King will provide an estimate for developing a logo.
9. Route 217 is a State Road, obligating us to meet their requirement for an EV station sign. Susan will take the lead on this.
10. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino