

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 14

February 08, 2023

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Allison Hoppe, Haley Balconoff, Debra Gitterman, Susan Michie, Sarah King, Arthur King, Michael Seserman

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom. Ray Rigoglioso (possible new member unable to attend due to meeting conflict).

1. Lightbulb exchange video - Storycrafters will let Tom know when they can present to the group once the theme they are working on is further developed. It was decided that the CSC table at Philmont Community Day, to be held on a Saturday in early July, will feature posters, flyers, and more to be determined. Susan, Sarah and Arthur will pursue this further.
2. The NYSERDA Clean Energy Community PON 3298 (municipal building energy audit) resulted in draft audits for Village Hall and Community Center and will be reviewed by Debra, Tom and Michael with the consultant for approval next week. It was decided to remove the water treatment plant from this program and switch it to a program called FlexTech so that the energy using processing equipment can be evaluated and recommended alternatives considered. This solution avoids the redundancy of auditing lighting which has already been installed and instead concentrates on the biggest users of energy – mainly the pumps. According to Haley, the Flextech program offers 50% cost share (half from the State, half from the Village) to do the audit. Approximately \$3,300 is left over from PON 3298 which can only be used to fund measures recommended in the report. CSC will make specific recommendations after review. The program prohibits use of the excess funds to go toward an audit for an atypical facility such as the treatment plant. There may be funding to cover upgrades to the treatment plant through the federal Environmental Facilities Corporation and through the newly passed Infrastructure Bill. But none of this funding is possible without a report. Tom will ask the Village Trustees for permission to get an estimate for what it would cost for an audit through the FlexTech program.
3. Once the building audits are approved, Pledge Element 2.1 – Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – can start with the assistance of Haley. Tom will ask the Village Trustees for permission to visit the treatment plant to get the basic information required for GHG inventory as provided by Haley. Pledge Element 2.5 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan is dependent on 2.1 GHG inventory.
4. The CSC assessment summary and table indicating planned and completed actions required for Bronze Certification are posted on the Village website. Using GoogleDocs, the required program documents will be uploaded assigned to members as follows: **Debra** – (1) Adopt the CSC Pledge, (1.2) CSC Task Force, (1.3) CSC Coordinator, (1.5) National/Regional Climate Program, (3.15) LED Streetlights, (n/a) Energy Code Enforcement Training, (4.7) Power Purchase Agreement for Renewables, (6.3) United Solar Permit, **Tom** - (3.1) Government Building Energy Audits, (3.18) Outdoor Lighting Upgrades, (3.2) Interior Lighting Upgrades, (3.32) Benchmarking Municipal Buildings, (n/a) NY Stretch Energy Code Adoption, (6.11) Alternative Fuel Infrastructure, (9.3) Climate Related Public Events, **Allison** – (5.11) Residential Organic Waste Program, (6.1)

Planning and Infrastructure for Biking and Walking, (6.1) Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements, (7.1) Climate Vulnerability Assessment, (7.2) Climate Adaptation Plan, (7.6) Climate Resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan, **Susan** – (9.2) Energy Reduction Campaign, (10.3) Partnerships with other Entities, **Michael** – (4.5) Heat Pumps, **Ray** – (2.1) Government Greenhouse Gas Inventory, (3.1) Fleet Inventory Policy, (n/a) Fleet Inventory, (3.12) Advanced vehicles. Submission deadline is April 7 and resubmission deadline is July 7.

5. Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan (Pledge Element 7) is dependent on County initiation.
6. Andrew, Tom, Susan and Michael are interested in a tour of Valatie Micro-hydro facility suggesting a Tuesday or Thursday late afternoon timeframe. Andrew will make the arrangements with Valatie town clerk.
7. The standard county roadside sign for an EV charging station researched by Jeff French was approved. The library has agreed to have it installed in their front yard (217 is a State road which does not allow non traffic related signage in the right-of-way). According to Jeff the sign will have no charge or possibly a \$60. Charge. Erection would have to be by the Village.
8. The Hudson Valley Watershed Alliance is looking for citizen monitoring of water quality of natural water bodies throughout the Valley. Summit Lake would be an excellent candidate for this program. Candace will research this further. The community center would be an ideal place to serve as the monitoring station.
9. Columbia County has signed on to NYSEDA's Clean Heating and Cooling program offering the same to towns and villages. The program involves installation of energy saving devices such as heat pumps, geothermal and solar by individual home owners and businesses. A discretionary grant is awarded for each 5 participants and requires a scoping document submitted by the Village. Michael will research this further for the next meeting.
10. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino