

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 15

March 08, 2023

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

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom. Ray Rigoglioso (absent due to technical glitch but informed afterwards).

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) The two audits (Community Center and Village Hall) will be reviewed with Jeff Scharl of NYSERDA and Matt Arisohn from L&S Engineering the week of March 20th. How to spend the remaining \$3,300 will be considered at that meeting with recommendations made to the Village Trustees. A meeting is scheduled for March 14 with Stacey Sabo of NYSERDA to review the feasibility of using the Flex Tech program for an energy audit of the wastewater treatment plant. The Flex Tech program, unlike conventional buildings, analyzes processing energy use as well as equipment opening the door to innovative solutions. It has 50% cost share to cover the cost of the audit, but that can be exchanged for the approximately \$3,300 going towards a specific measure in Village Hall as mentioned previously.
3. Once the building audits are approved, Pledge Element 2.1 – Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – can start with the assistance of Haley. Haley will provide guideline requirements and Tom will collect information for the water treatment plant relative to the GHG inventory. Pledge Element 2.5 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan is dependent on 2.1 GHG inventory.
4. Previous minutes indicated the individual task force member responsible for uploading documents to the shared GoogleDoc folders organized by Pledge number. **Andrew** agreed to take over (5.11) Residential Organic Waste Program from **Allison**. The submission deadline has changed from April 7 to July 7 by NYSERDA who claims that the success of the program has overwhelmed their office with submissions and the need an extension.
5. Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan (Pledge Element 7) is dependent on County initiation with Cornell Extension taking the lead.
6. Andrew, Tom, Susan, Michael, Sarah and Arthur are scheduled to tour the Valatie Micro-hydro facility lead by John Doran tomorrow, Thursday, March 9. It was agreed that Chris Wetmore, a Philmont resident could join us.
7. A directional sign for the EV charging station was provided by the county free of charge, through the efforts of Jeff French, and was erected in the front yard of the library by the Village.
8. Andrew and Susan will assemble a draft Newsletter (prototype for a future monthly newsletter) based on the Valatie MicroHydro tour event. Mailchimp will be the preferred platform moving

forward with a link on the Village website. Permission to use the Village seal in the newsletter format will be sought.

9. Through the Local Champions program three hours of consultation is being offered from each of two expert advisors – Kriston Wilson (fundraising) of RUPCO and Jennifer Crawford (civil engineer) of Crawford Engineering. Debra, Andrew, Allison, and Ray requested being on the call with Kriston (fundraising) and Andrew, Susan, Allison and Michael requested to be on the call with Jennifer (engineer). Tom will schedule the calls.
10. Columbia County Clean Heating and Cooling program has a kick off meeting this Thursday on Zoom lead by Doug Craig of Taghkanic. He will be announcing an event to be held at the Taghkanic Fire House in April. Philmont still needs to complete the Scoping Document which Michael will look into.
11. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino