

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 16

April 12, 2023

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

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Lightbulb exchange – Storycrafters final video was presented and approved. Barry agreed to having the final version included in the Local Champions “graduation presentation” to be given by Tom. Crediting should be as follows: “Produced at Old House Studio by Barry Marshall and Jeri Burns known as The Story Crafters.” Postings on social media and Village website was recommended. Their work is considered a donation to the CSC effort. Lightbulb give-away will be part of Philmont Community Day.
2. NYSERDA Clean Energy Community PON 3298 (municipal building energy audit) The remaining funds resulting from canceling the water treatment plant audit (approximately \$3,300) will be applied to implementing the interior lighting retrofit for the Village Hall suggested by the auditing consultant. His estimate to do this work was approximately \$6,000. Additional funding could come through NYSERDA and energy tax credit to the contractor. It was agreed to work with Greg Leggett Electrical for both the additional funding and to get an estimate for the work.
3. It was agreed to get estimates to use the Flex Tech program to do the more advanced audit required by the water treatment plant. Of the four consultants suggested by Stacey Sabo of NYSERDA, two responded: Karen Clark, Barton and Loguidice and Matthew Yonkin of Arcadis. Additional information was sent to them, but still waiting for estimates. (A reminder – this is a 50% cost share program).
4. Data collection for Pledge Element 2.1 – Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – has started with Jess collecting past electrical billing. Pledge Element 2.5 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan is dependent on 2.1 GHG inventory.
5. Individual task force member responsibility for uploading documents to the shared GoogleDoc folders organized by Pledge number continues. The NYSERDA submission deadline is now July 7.
6. Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan (Pledge Element 7) is dependent on County initiation with Cornell Extension taking the lead.
7. Andrew, Tom, Susan, and Michael met with Jan Borchert of Crawford Engineering to discuss Micro-hydro potential in the Village. Jan presented various obstacles for locating such a facility at the Summit Lake dam. He encouraged alternate locations such as the water drop west of the high falls. This conversation will continue with the possibility of engaging hydrologist.
8. An inaugural newsletter was issued (Susan and Andrew) which highlighted the visit to the Valatie MicroHydro facility. 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. Also consider a QR code at the EV charging station, so there is something to read while charging. Frequency, content, and contribution to the newsletter are still being discussed.

9. Debra, Tom, and Ray met with Kristen Wilson (fundraising) of RUPCO covering fundraising basics. It was agreed to schedule a second hour to specifically discuss establishing a procedure for grant opportunity alerts, calendar and deadlines and New York Forward grants and other NYS grants using her Kingston experience. Andrew, Tom, Susan and Michael will continue with Crawford Engineering to discuss composting and aerobic digestion, water treatment plant alternative measures and infrastructure in anticipation of a climate adaptation study.
10. Columbia County Clean Heating and Cooling program scoping document was completed by Michael enabling Philmont to be a participating municipality within the County program.
11. Logo – Arthur presented alternatives of a Philmont CSC logo design, one of which will be chosen by the next meeting.
12. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino