

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 17

May 10, 2023

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

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Lightbulb exchange – The Storycrafters approved video was incorporated into Tom’s Local Champion’s final presentation covering the history, challenges, and accomplishments of Philmont’s CSC. Video of the entire presentation will be posted to the Village website by Debra. Additional exposure of just the lightbulb video is still being discussed. Lightbulb exchange will be part of Philmont Community Day.
2. NYSERDA Clean Energy Community PON 3298 (municipal building energy audit) Original contract has been revised to reflect applying unused funds from water treatment plant audit to lighting fixture retrofit in the Village Hall. This was submitted to Jeff Scharl of NYSERDA who is on vacation until third week of May. Tom will finalize the contract with Jeff upon his return. Tom will schedule meeting with Greg Legget and Doug Cropper to review prospective work at Village Hall to arrive at an estimate and strategize additional funding sources.
3. Discussion for possible Flex Tech audit of water treatment plant continues with two potential consultants Silvia Marpicati of Arcadis and Karen Clark of Barton and Loguidice. The small size of the treatment facility may preclude participation in the program.
4. Data collection for Pledge Element 2.1 – Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory should be coordinated with Audrey Kropp of Cornell and based on data being compiled by Jess Thomas. Pledge Element 2.5 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan is dependent on 2.1 GHG inventory.
5. The uploading of documents to the shared GoogleDoc folders organized by Pledge number continues as per previous assignment. The NYSERDA submission deadline is July 7.
6. Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan (Pledge Element 7) will be initiated by Audrey Kropp. Tom will inquire while discussing GHG emission inventory.
7. Scheduling the next consultations with expert advisors sponsored by the Local Champions program is progressing. Andrew, Tom, Susan, and Michael are interested in a meeting with Jen Crawford of Crawford Engineering and Debra and Tom are interested in a meeting with Kristen Wilson of RUPCO.
8. Susan will assemble the next issue of the newsletter. Tom will provide brief description of the Local Champions experience and how it applies to Philmont’s program to reduce GHG emissions. Tom will also provide photos of recent solar panel installation. Any other subject matter should be sent to Susan.
9. Logo shown in the Local Champions video was accepted with the possible modification of the typeface in the word “Philmont” to suggest its steep terrain setting. Arthur will present at the next meeting.

10. Allison reserved a table for the CSC at Philmont's Community Day celebration. Literature, lightbulbs, heat pump and solar sign-up, and demonstration models are possible items for the "table". Repair Café to be held at the library.
11. Columbia County Clean Heating and Cooling program includes heat pumps and solar panels. Individuals or companies can sign up for the program which is tracked by the County based on information provided by the CSC Task Force. Awarded points are based on 10 sign-ups within a certain time period. Michael will secure further information including contact with Cara Humphrey of Neighborhood Sun for literature and local presentation.
12. It was agreed to initiate Philmont's participation in the County's aerobic composting program. The county provides containers and weekly pickup of composting collected at a location designated by the village. For this to be successful in Philmont it would need to be promoted across all resident conditions including renters. The program is not currently open to businesses. This would involve coordination with DPW (Claverack?), education and possible incentives (free household containers, food coupons, etc,) and needs further discussion.
13. A small group of Philmont residents who doubt globally accepted climate science, on which CSC activities are based, are pressing Village trustees to disband the CSC Task Force. It was agreed not to engage this group, but rather make statements during the public comment period covering CSC accomplishments and benefits enjoyed by the Village.
14. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino