

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 21

October 11, 2023

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Debra Gitterman, Michael Seserman, Susan Michie, Arthur King, Haley Balconoff The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Remaining lightbulbs and PCSC flyers are available at the Library. Tobi said people still come in requesting lightbulbs.
2. It was agreed to apply for the competitive Partners for Climate Action Building Decarbonization Grant, Stage B - \$5K to \$15K committed to engineering services to cover planning, design, and grant writing defining renovation strategy of Village Hall. Baseline information will be provided by the existing energy audit of the building completed in late 2022. The village trustees have agreed that the Village will be the applicant and authorize Tom as the point person. The Village agreed to submit a letter of support for the project as well as adopt a resolution. The Village is about to sign the contract with NYSERDA awarding a grant of \$3,200 dedicated to upgrading the lighting in Village Hall. The estimate from Legett Electric to do this work is \$20,000, a considerable gap between the two amounts. Therefore, lighting will be added to the overall “decarbonization” project offering the NYSERDA grant as leverage under “other sources of funding.” James Clarke of Laberge Engineering has been approached to submit a proposal to do the overall project work. Tom will complete the grant application using information from the latest Federal Census and American Community Survey for descriptive information on Philmont.
3. Silvia Marpicati of Arcadis Engineering gave her assessment and conclusion with regard to performing advanced energy audit, known as FlexTech, on the wastewater treatment plant as follows:

Generally, the energy efficiency of a wastewater treatment plant is based on the ratio of kWh to a million gallons of treated water. This ratio is typically in the range of 4 to 4.5. After reviewing the types of equipment and two years of energy use bills, the ratio of the Philmont plant is approximately 3.5 making it more efficient than the average. This favorable outcome is due to the “blowers” running on variable speed motors and the recent change out of the lighting to LED’s. Being reminded that the treatment plant is still the highest single use of energy in the Village, Silvia suggested the installation of a solar panel array dedicated to the plant itself. The PCSC will pursue this at a later date.
4. Jess has completed collecting data required for the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and fleet inventory for government operations. Tom will assemble it and submit it to Haley.
5. The southern Columbia County Climate Adaptation Plan workshop was held September 26 with Tom attending. The resulting report has been posted in Google Docs. Debra said she would post the report more prominently on the Village website. The next workshop is scheduled for October 27, 1:00 to 4:00 at Columbia/Greene Community College. Most of the other towns have multiple representatives attending. Tom will forward the invite to committee members to encourage more attendance.
6. Columbia County Clean Heating and Cooling scoping documents for both heat pumps and solar installations were prepared by Michael. Haley was able to relocate them on the NYSERDA site

for their approval. Only those installations completed after the filing is approved can achieve credit as follows: 5 installs – heat pumps, 10 installs – solar arrays. Michael will continue promotional activity concentrating on a collaboration with the Eagle Street Habitat for Humanity project and setting up an information table in the spring next to the post office.

7. Initiating Philmont’s participation in the county-wide composting program hinges on making bins available in the Village that can be monitored. Most likely monitoring possibility would be with the Department of Public Works (DPW), however that is in a state of flux while the village negotiates transfer of DPW tasks from Philmont to Claverack. This is expected to be settled over the next month. Suggestions for location of the bins are one on Main Street (library or Purpose) and one at the Philmont DPW on Carpenter Avenue. In the meantime, community leaf collection for composting counts towards credits. The Village has obtained new leaf vacuum and delivers what they collect to Weigelt Enterprises in Hudson.
8. Still need confirmation on Action Requirements responsibility. Government operations climate action plan and sustainability elements in the comprehensive plan – Allison? Brownfield clean-up and watershed plan – Arthur and Sarah, who reported that Sally Baker was amenable to sharing some of the work accomplished under the BOA initiative. Residential Organic waste program – Susan. See below for Table of Action Requirements and Responsibility to meet the January 2024 deadline for NYS CSC Bronze Certification submission:

PCSC Additional Actions for January 2024 Submission

Group	Action	Pnts	Who
PE2	Government operations GHG Inventory	16	Tom
PE2	Government operations Climate Action Plan	12	Allison
PE3	Benchmarking Municipal Buildings Advanced Rep	2	Tom
PE3	Fleet Inventory	4	Tom
PE3	Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy	4	Debra
PE4	Green Power Procurement Policy	4	Debra
PE5	Recycling Bins in Government Buildings	3	Debra
PE5	Waste Reduction Education Campaign (Repr Café, compost)	2	Susan
PE5	Residential Organic Waste Program (leaf & Compost)	10	Susan
PE6	Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements	6	Allison
PE7	Climate Vulnerability Assessment	10	Allison
PE7	Climate Adaptation Plan	7	Allison
PE7	Climate Resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan	4	Allison
PE7	Watershed Plan for Water Quality	4	Arthur, Sarah
PE8	Brownfield Clean-up & Redevelopment	6	Arthur, Sarah
PE8	Community Campaigns, solar + Clean Heating and Cooling	6	Michael
PE11	New Innovative Action (MicroHydro	5	Andrew
Total		105	

9. Arthur will email the stationery with logo sample sheet for everyone’s use. Tom will try to get Susan on the free Canva portal to enhance newsletter production.
10. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino