

# Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 23

December 13, 2023

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Susan Michie, Arthur King, Sarah Barton-King, Haley Balconoff ,  
The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. An email inquiry from Hudson Valley Partners for Climate Action concerning the budget for the Village Hall Decarbonization engineering design costs was answered as follows: \$15,000 would go to Laberge Engineering for their estimated costs to do the planning and design. Their estimate of \$2,500 to submit the application for the current grant went to \$0 because that work was performed by the PCSC. Their estimate of \$7,500 to identify and apply for construction implementation grants was reduced to \$3,500, again because some of this work would be done by the PCSC. The \$3,500 would be covered by previous NYSERDA, Clean Energy discretionary grant. \$3,200 from NYSERDA audit grant would go towards implementing the lighting upgrade.
2. To complete the Fleet Inventory task, Haley needs fuel information (gas and diesel). Tom will request this information from Jess. GHG inventory is nearly done.
3. Arthur provided descriptive photos of the sewer treatment facility buildings to advance the concept of an integrated solar panel array to offset the intense energy use of the plant. Tom will request from the Village a copy of the solar panel assessment done approximately 5 years ago, possibly by Monolith Solar. Arthur will provide the vendor information for the NYSERDA approved installer for his solar panels.
4. With Tobi and Debra absent from the meeting, a redundant (Debra has been sending emails) request to complete the Columbia County Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency second public survey was not made. Tom will email the group the link to the survey and urge everyone to complete it and send the link to other interested parties. With that in play, the next task is to issue recommendations on adaptation and resiliency specific to Philmont to the Comprehensive Plan review committee requesting that they be incorporated into the revised plan. Tom and Debra will create a draft for the January meeting. Tobi will continue collaboration with Claverack and the county for the planning of public events on resiliency with emphasis on emergency conditions.
5. Columbia County Clean Heating and Cooling campaign continues for both heat pumps and solar installations. Michael will have more in January. It appears that there are four qualifying installations just on Summit Street.
6. Michael forwarded an email concerning county-wide composting from Deborah Conrad who is coordinating the collaboration of several towns to make participation in the program more fruitful. Jolene Race, the current county contact, will be retiring, so the effort will continue with Wendy Madsen. Hopefully more in January on this topic.
7. It is unlikely that the 120 credits for Bronze certification will be achieved by the next deadline, January 5, 2024. Tom will make the tally just before the deadline and will submit if the threshold is met to get feedback from the reviewers. Otherwise, the goal will move to the next submission date which is April 5, 2024. The date after that is July 5. Arthur mentioned that a

chart was created by the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) committee equating their activities to CSC Action Credits. He will ask Sally Baker for a copy.

8. Haley stated that NYSERDA just announced a revised Clean Energy Community program. Under the new standards 5000 points equates to \$100K grant to the village. Philmont already has 3,100 points. Haley's assessment as follows:
  - 800 points - CSC Bronze
  - 500 points - Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign
  - 200 points - Community Solar Campaign
  - 300 points - Benchmarking
  - 200 points - Fleet Inventory

5,100 points = \$100,000

plus \$10,000 campaign Tier 1 grants

These tasks would have to be achieved by October 2024 and she encourages the committee to prioritize these items.

9. The next meeting will be held, Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino