

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 28

May 08, 2024

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Haley Balconoff, Debra Gitterman, Susan Michie, Anya Bonanno
The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Anya Bonanno of the Philmont Public Library promoted the recently acquired collection on Sustainability, Climate Change, and Collective Action. Consisting of 29 volumes ranging from what the future holds living with climate change to what can be done to reduce its effects such as “how to” regenerative farming and solar power installation, the collection is available on loan to the public. Further promotion in the form of mini reviews by PCSC members for publication in the next newsletter was discussed. Also displaying the books at the Climate Carnival may be a possibility.
2. Government Operations GHG Inventory (on Excel spreadsheet) and Introduction by Haley and Tom is completed and uploaded to Google Docs folder PE2.1. Debra will post both the report and the Excel spreadsheet on the Village website for public review as required to receive credit.
3. The Village Hall Decarbonization grant has been received by the Village. Laberge Engineering, who previously submitted a proposal, has concluded they would not be the appropriate consultant to do this type of energy study and recommended a firm called EDM who have offices in Pittsfield, MA and Troy, NY. Tom is in the process of interviewing them and will research the availability of other firms as well. The funder has been alerted that the process has been delayed and Tom will have more to report in the June meeting.
4. The \$3,200 NYSERDA grant to change out the lighting in Village Hall may be better spent on an energy audit of the Department of Public Works (DPW) building on Carpenter Road. There is potential of further NYSERDA funding to go towards the Village Hall decarbonization effort, but not if funds are already dedicated to that building. Also, the DPW is the last remaining building without an audit. Tom will discuss this with Mayor Johnson.
5. Through Debra’s efforts, Philmont has been approved to become a Green Purchasing Community (GPC) which includes the pledge to follow GreenNY purchasing specifications. Debra will post the press release which includes a brief description of the program and quotes from elected officials and agency representatives on the Village website. Tom will upload the required documents for PE 3.24 on the CSC’s portal for Bronze Certification submission.
6. Through Debra’s efforts, Philmont passed Resolution No. 3, which refreshes and continues the policy to purchase, through annual contracts, power for government facilities produced by renewables. This will be added to the Bronze Certification submission under PE 4.1
7. Through Debra’s efforts, 14 seven-gallon recycling bins for appropriate placement in government buildings are on order.
8. Michael reported reaching the first milestone of 5 installations in the Clean Heating and Cooling program. He has recorded this on the NYSERDA portal. Likewise, the Community Solar sign-ups are continuing and being recorded on the NYSERDA portal as milestone amounts are reached. Also, Michael will file a scoping document for electric vehicle purchase campaign.

9. A draft of the municipal facility Climate Action Plan has been completed by Tom and Haley and distributed to PSCS members for their comments. The draft was also presented at the Village Board meeting for comments. With the comments, it was acceptable to be presented in a public hearing to be held at the beginning of the June meeting. Debra will post the document on the Village website and arrange, through Jess, for the required public hearing notice. Through a separate phone conversation Tom has arranged with Marty Miller to provide and set up the visual aid equipment for the public hearing. Tom will make the presentation and the other PSCS members are urged to attend the meeting to be held at 7:00 PM on June 10th.
10. Discussion on participation in the Climate Carnival planned for this September is ongoing with the possibility of coordinating with the Philmont Public Library.
11. The county-wide composting program is still being discussed at the county level. Tom will have more to report for the June meeting.
12. Newsletter possibilities as mentioned in item (1) will be considered once Susan is able to resume work on it.
13. Tom has requested the name of the EV charging station vendor the County uses to discuss changing out the current station with them. Once identified, we need someone to take the lead on this.
14. The next meeting will be held in person at the Philmont Public Library, Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino