

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 29

June 12, 2024

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Haley Balconoff, Debra Gitterman, Michael Seserman, Susan Michie, Arthur King, Sarah Barton-King, Lindsey Strehlau-Howay

The meeting took place at the Philmont Library and on Zoom.

1. Lindsey Strehlau-Howay, community advisor with the Cornell Cooperative Extension, outlined the process to create an education strategy to engage the community in understanding and participating in resiliency/adaptation to the effects brought on by climate change. It includes formulating a plan specific to local conditions, a resolution from the Village committing to the plan and methodologies to attract community engagement. These activities are counted under CSC Action Credit PE-9, Climate Change Education and Engagement and range from 4-22 Points, depending on how many actions are completed. To get started, Lindsey will be emailing two short survey forms to each of us individually that she would like returned by the end of next week. To begin to satisfy the community engagement component, Debra has created a place holder on the Village website for a climate adaptation/emergency preparedness newsletter. Susan will research other municipality newsletters for ideas to create our own.
2. Philmont Library's collection of 29 books on sustainability and the environment is still available, as discussed at the last meeting. The request is that each task member check out one or two books and write a one to two paragraph synopsis and "praise" of the book for publication in the newsletter. Susan said she could set up a template – she just needs the text and maybe a photo of the cover. Sarah said she would take the Bill McKibben book. Tom will discuss the idea of displaying the books at the Climate Carnival in collaboration with Claverack.
3. Haley reviewed the CSC Certification Application Actions Checklist and determined that we have 154 points and 7 priority actions which puts us in the running for Bronze status. Debra and Michael will upload items to the Google Docs folders for environmentally preferable purchasing policy, green power procurement, alternative fuel infrastructure, purchase power agreement for renewables and recycling bins in municipal buildings. Tom will upload items for government operations climate action plan (which held a successful public hearing, Monday June 10, 2024), partnership with other entities, energy audits, interior lighting upgrade, climate vulnerability assessment, climate related public events. Tom will then submit all these documents to the CSC Certification Application and Haley will review when she gets back from vacation. That will leave a few days before Tom presses the "submit" button which must be done on July 5, 2024.
4. Three proposals have been received from prospective consultants to do a decarbonization feasibility study of Village Hall. All were handicapped by the total funds available for the study. One, however, CHA of Albany is NYSERDA certified and offered to apply directly for a "matching" grant. Also, in play is \$3,200 of unspent energy audit funds already allocated. Tom and Haley will meet with NYSERDA to resolve how to acquire more funds for this specific project and report at the next meeting.
5. The information on alternate providers for electric vehicle charging stations was passed along to Sebastian for the purpose of researching a changeout of the non-working EV charger at the

library parking lot. Due to personal issues, he was unable to attend the meeting and hopefully will have something to report in July.

6. Tom will reach out to Claverack CSC for coordination to participate in the Climate Carnival planned for this September. Philmont Public Library, offering their sustainability book collection, is still interested.
7. Coordination with the county-wide composting program is a task waiting for a volunteer. Discussion of a flyer specifically addressing this need was discussed.
8. Susan said she could begin to put a draft newsletter together if she receives content.
9. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino