



Climate Smart Community Task Force
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 34

November 13, 2024

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Debra Gitterman, Arthur King, Lindsey Strehlau-Howay, Sarah Barton King, Susan Michie, Jason Detzel

The meeting took place at Village Hall and on Zoom.

1. Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP) – Using the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan as a guide Lindsey presented the first draft of the Philmont Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness guide for comments. The 21-page document starts with critical contacts to stay informed including “Stream Gage Monitoring” where the waterflow rate of the Agawamuck can be checked. Continuing, it covers access to resources such as warming and cooling centers, food and water, power generation, pet and livestock care and mental health. Further, it includes a “how to” preparation guide with “disaster kit checklist”, ways to learn about climate change and subsequent environmental vulnerabilities. It concludes with ways to get involved. Jason commented to remove the Fire Department from the list of refuge locations and adding the public library. He also suggested adding “Free Fridge” at the public library to the Food Pantry category and removing “Community Day Committee” from emergency volunteer list. He also mentioned that the Fire Department, under specific circumstances, offers pump out services. The one page “rack card” should be ready by the next meeting.
2. Village hall decarbonization – The contract for consultant services with New Energy World (NEW - Matt Arisohn) has been signed by the mayor and the retainer check (\$5,000.) is “on the schedule”. The total consultant costs of \$30,000 are covered by the HV Climate Action grant + NYSERDA grants (transfer from unused energy audit, 20% match and discretionary). NEW has retained Northeast Projects to advise on building envelope issues. Start date is as soon as the retainer check is received.
3. One of the solar companies – Buy Solar Local – has submitted detailed proposals for the Village Hall and Sewage Treatment Plant. Sam Schwartz has agreed to make a presentation of these proposals at our December meeting. Arthur will work out the arrangements. Everyone should review these two proposals to have prepared questions in December. Tom will email.
4. EV Charging Station – With the switch in strategy to concentrate on fast EV charging installations, Tom has sent the approved introductory letter requesting dialogue on a

public/private partnership strategy to the EG Group, current owner of Cumberland Farms. It was directed to the sustainability director in the American headquarters located in Massachusetts. The initial response was positive with a question of how much money the local municipality was willing to put in. Tom responded that depended on State and Federal grants and suggested engaging New York Power Authority that has access to Build Public Renewables Act grants.

5. Debra and Tom feverously worked on submitting documents for both the \$100K and FlexTech NYSERDA grants to meet the deadline. See item No. 2 for the FlexTech details. A preliminary proposal for a geothermal heat pump (anticipating this will be proposed in the decarbonization study) was the basis for the \$100K grant. We should be getting a response to both before the end of the year.
6. Discussion to collaborate with the Claverack CSC is ongoing with emphasis on community composting, electrifying equipment and vehicles and joint newsletter.
7. Discussion on how to proceed considering expected legislative challenges at the federal level was initiated and planned to continue.
8. The next meeting to be held December 11th is most likely on Zoom only to enable the solar install presentation.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino