



## Climate Smart Community Task Force

Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 36

January 08, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Arthur King, Sebastian Schinkel, Haley Balcanoff.

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Village hall decarbonization – Next Energy World (NEW) team have scheduled January 21 and 22 for their site visit to collect data to arrive at baseline conditions of the building. The team consists of Northeast Projects – building envelope, Aztech Geothermal – geothermal heat pump system, F. W. Webb – plumbing and heating, Phelps Brothers – roofing, Standard Insulation – weatherizing, TBD – solar panels and ReWire Group – EV charging. Tom will forward NYS Solar Farm quote for the Village Hall to NEW for consideration. Village Trustee Doug Cropper has offered to meet with the team and provide access to the various spaces throughout the building. He also offered to handle minor electrical work resulting from logging devices put in place on some of the existing equipment. The \$3,200 NYSERDA grant was approved with the first \$800 check to come in shortly.
2. The NYSERDA \$100K grant contract was issued for signature by the mayor. Jess will submit it to the Village attorney for review and obtain the mayor's signature hopefully within the 10 day period allowed. As a reminder, this money is dedicated to installation of geothermal heat pump equipment at the Village Hall.
3. Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP) – Lindsey was absent from the meeting but submission of the final products – Rack Cards, social media posting etc. - should be made before the end of this month.
4. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – Tom learned that, although vulnerable due to its hilly terrain and rushing tributaries, Philmont has not been studied and mapped by Flood Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). When accessing Philmont on FEMA mapping it shows as a blank area (this does not mean there is no flood risk, it means not studied). A municipality can voluntarily participate in the NFIP upon request. It would be beneficial to learn what the risk is from flooding and what can be done about it especially considering the recently completed resiliency/ preparedness study. We would also get credits under CSC Action No. 7. Baily Sawyer of NYSDEC can help with the process of applying to participate – the town of Shandaken has recently done this. Tom will present the concept to the Village Board this Monday.

5. EV Charging Station – With no response from the EG Group Tom re-contacted the sustainability director, Brian Duphily for an update. They are still definitely interested in installing a fast charger at the Cumberland Farms site. The delay is because “corporate” is assessing a single source for fast chargers throughout their US locations. Once a vendor is selected, they can move ahead, hopefully by Spring 2025.
6. “Greener Homes” legislation – This bill (A10146), signed into law a few weeks ago, provides property tax relief for owners who make certain energy saving capital improvements to their residential buildings. The relief materializes by exempting the value of those improvements from the assessed value. The owner completes a form provided by the NYS tax commission and submits it to the assessor for consideration. This procedure can only occur in those municipalities that adopt a local law, through public hearing, granting the exemption. Tom will raise this possibility at the next Village Trustee meeting and at the next County Environmental Council meeting.
7. The NYS Climate Smart Communities has updated its “Certifications Actions” checklist with deletions, additions and changes. Haley has offered to present an overview of this modification at our next meeting.
8. The next meeting to be held February12, 2025, most likely on Zoom only.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino