



Climate Smart Community Task Force
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 38

March 13, 2025

Attendees: Debra Gitterman, Arthur King, Sebastian Schinkel, Michael Seserman, Alton Earnhart, Erin Aliperti, Susan Mitchie

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 02/12/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. A joint newsletter with Claverack Climate Smart was presented by Katy Flammia and Sarah Katan. Sporting both Claverack and Philmont logos, the every-two-month periodical would feature coverage of events, summaries of related articles, podcasts, conferences and personal experiences improving the environment. The collaboration would expand the number of “voices” as well as circulation. Previous issues can be found at climatesmartclaverack@com Ideas can be discussed with Sarah, however the final article must be fully completed and proofread before submission with text separated from images and emailed to sarahc.katan@gmail.com The next issue is April/May, so submissions are due at the end of March. Erin already submitted an article on light pollution. Discussed Arthur and Susan possibly submitting an article about the experience installing solar panels. It was suggested that participating in the Claverack newsletter does not exclude us from having our own occasional newsletter.
3. Downtown Revitalization Grant - Contribute to designing and installing historic and climate related signage, establish micro-hydro power, redesign or rewilding of Memorial Park, a comprehensive, coordinated proposal tying in the rail trail, etc.
4. PCA Funding - 4 communities to be funded for training and communications to educate about the Village’s environmental priorities - Up to 22K. Deadline is May 23rd. Debra will make one of the informational sessions.
5. Arthur brought up that the sewage treatment plant is the largest user of energy. Village provided invoices to develop a proposal that included the Village Hall. Then the Hall was taken out but the proposal was dropped. Arthur spoke about the various solar proposals for the treatment plant. Arthur will compile the proposal information from one company that could possibly be funded via the DRI funding and shared with the group.
6. Review of the Climate Smart site by Debra. Can be found at <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/> and the [Google Spreadsheet with the checklist of all Climate Smart Communities actions](#). Please fool around with each Climate Smart resource and see if there are any areas where we need points that you might be interested in working on.

7. Michael reported reaching out to John Bradley to see if he wants to assign someone or join me to meet with Louie at the Claverack DPW about figuring out how to get food scraps picked up and brought to the Transfer Station or the County Composter.

Minutes prepared by Michael Seserman