



Climate Smart Community Task Force
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 39

April 16, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Arthur King, Haley Balcanoff, Debra Gitterman, Susan Michie, Alton Earnhart, Eren Aliperti

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 03/13/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Eren's article on "night skies" was commended for both its technical information and personal experience. It is expected to be published shortly in the Claverack CSC newsletter. Being a bimonthly, some discussion of subsequent articles to be submitted took place. These suggestions will be confirmed in the next meeting to be in time for the next publication.
3. Village hall decarbonization – due to continuous inclement weather, the roofing subcontractor was unable to gain access to the flat roof. Also, the lead consultant, Matt Arisohn, was on vacation, but due back April 20th. It is still expected to have a final report in early May. The New World Foundation (the funding source of the decarbonization study) final report is due April 30, 2025. Tom will submit this on NFW's portal before the due date and hopefully make a copy for the next meeting. The first payment from the \$3,200 NYSERDA grant has not been received. Haley suggested the snag may be caused by an out-of-date insurance policy on file with them. Tom will contact Jeff, the NYSERDA project manager, to fix the problem.
4. Debra and Tom have been meeting with Claverack CSC to discuss applying for the Partners for Climate Action "Funding Futures" grant to cover the costs of a yearlong effort of community engagement focused on preserving and enhancing the natural environment in the town of Claverack which includes Philmont. The effort depends on an appropriate candidate (program fellow) to receive training and administer the community outreach. If a municipality applies it must be at the town level, therefore the collaboration with Claverack. In this scenario the Claverack Free Library will be the applicant with endorsement from the Town Board and the Program Fellow is a Philmont resident with endorsement from the Village Board. Tom will acquire the endorsement from Philmont. In addition, "letters of support" are essential to the application. Assignment to get those letters are as follows: Debra – Summit Mill, Hopkins House, Habitat for Humanity, and Trillium. Tom – Columbia Land Conservancy, New Leaf, PBInc., and Philmont Rod & Gun. Michael – Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Alton –

Churchtown Dairy, Hawthorne Valley Farmscape? Susan – Klock Distillery. Tom will email the template letter to everyone to get things started.

5. Three funding opportunities for Philmont are being pursued as follows: Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward managed by Sally Baker, PBInc. And Community Resiliency Economic Sustainability and Technology (CREST) managed by Tom. The DRI and NYForward are broad and comprehensive initiatives requiring a compilation of all Village commercial and municipal capital improvement goals. Sally may request from the CSC a compilation of all our goals sometime before July, the due date. CREST is specifically focused on funding the Village Hall renovation and goes through the State Senator's office and depends on an itemization of specific capital improvements. This should be informed by the decarbonization report.
6. EV Charging Station – Tom will contact the EG Group for a status update before the end of April.
7. New York Solar Farm, who submitted bids for the Village Hall and Sewage Treatment plant, would like a response. Based on the funding efforts described in item 5, Arthur can gather an appropriate response.
8. It was suggested by Claverack Deputy Supervisor, Stephen Hook, in the last Philmont Trustee meeting, to contact Wendy at 518 828-1442 to initiate a discussion on a compost pick-up program. She works at the Greenport DPW and would have the best information on compost collection. Michael will contact her.
9. "Greener Homes" legislation – Tom will ask Didi Barrette's office for an example of a municipality that has adopted this legislation.
10. The next meeting to be held May 14, 2025, most likely on Zoom only.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino