



Climate Smart Community Task Force
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 42

July 09, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Haley Balconoff, Arthur King, Debra Gitterman, Michael Sesslerman, Sarah Barton-King, Eren Aliperti

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 06/11/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Funding Futures – Claverack/Philmont submission won the grant from Hudson Valley Partners for Climate Action and the training has already begun. Due to an invite misunderstanding Anya Bonanno was unable to join us to discuss the first event of the one-year program. Tom reminded everyone that it will be Sunday, August 3, 2025, in the afternoon at the Cornell Extension just off Route 66 near Greenport. There will be time spent inside and outside with a nature-based facilitator over a three-hour period. Anya will be sending everyone a flyer via email covering more details. We will be joining the Claverack Climate Smart Community, so everyone is encouraged to make it.
3. Village hall decarbonization – Tom reported that New Energy World (NEW) made a draft presentation to the mayor and trustee Doug Cropper and Susan Michie on June 17. It described in detail the existing conditions, offered alternative scenarios for building envelope, lighting systems and HVAC and prioritized the suggestions based on GHG emission reductions. Geothermal heat pump technology is a high consideration. Ballpark construction estimates across the itemized list suggest a total construction cost of \$1.5M. It became clear that a Design/Build consultant will be necessary to coordinate the construction of the project. Tom will research this avenue through suggestions from NEW. They submitted their second invoice for \$15,000 which Tom passed to the Village and will be paid out of the CSC funds in reserve.
4. Downtown Revitalization Initiative/ NY Forward (combined application) – several PSCS submissions were made as follows: Sewage Treatment Plant Solar Panels (Arthur), old baseball field re-use conversion (Erin), Village Hall renovation (Tom) and High Falls expansion called “Creek Trail Extension” (Tom) Sally Baker will let us know next steps leading to final submission in October.
5. NYSDEC Climate Smart Actions - due July 31, 2025. Further discussion with Haley, resulted in concentrating on two actions: Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) in collaboration with Claverack and Hazard Mitigation (HM) study of the Sewage Treatment Plant. Tom will handle the NRI, Michael will handle the HM. This requires

resolution from the respective municipalities. Tom and John of Claverack CSC will work on this.

6. Food scrap pickup – grants for pilots to initiate this action start at \$50K and are obviously for municipalities larger than Philmont. Therefore, we will continue this action using Claverack DPW for the transport service and seeking a small private grant to cover the costs of containers and publicity. Michael will research this further.
7. The next meeting to be held August 13, 2025, most likely on Zoom only.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino