



Climate Smart Community Task Force  
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 43

August 13, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Arthur King, Michael Sesserman, Sarah Barton-King, Eren Aliperti, Alton Earnhart

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 07/09/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Funding Futures, Claverack/Philmont natural environment program - Anya identified goals and methods recommended by the grantor and in the training program that are misaligned with customary community outreach practiced in the township. Similar sentiment was expressed by those who attended the inaugural event held earlier in the month. Debra, Tom, Katie Flammia, John Bradley and Anya have been in discussion with the grantors to come to an agreement for a path forward. It appears that the grantors would continue to fund the program with the changes requested. The preferred methodology involves a longer "listening" period with greater sensitivity to revealing the community's regard of the environment. A "hub and spoke" strategy through existing connections will be applied to encourage the fullest engagement. This will call for a wider volunteer engagement which will also offload responsibility from Anya the administrator. Anya will initiate a "Roles and Tasks" spreadsheet that others will need to participate in and complete. At this stage it mainly involves community member interviews. Interim meetings with the core group will help guide the discussion for the next meeting.
3. Village hall decarbonization – Next Energy World (NEW) plans to issue their final report before the end of August. Tom will distribute the report to Brian Johnson, Doug Cropper and Susan Michie for comments. Tom will also issue a copy of the report to JW Danforth, a Design/Build consultant, to use as a basis for a proposal from them to administer the construction process. Tom was also in contact with Senator Hinchey's office to indicate that a funding request was in process and would be based on the final report. Jess confirmed that NEW's second invoice was paid.
4. NYSDEC Climate Smart Actions - The NYS Consolidated Funding Application was submitted requesting funding to conduct Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) in collaboration with Claverack. Resolutions were issued by both Philmont and Claverack in support of the application. The match through municipal clerk time and volunteer

hours from both CSC task forces was also agreed to. Decisions on grant applications are made before the end of the year.

5. Food scrap pickup – Michael reported that he is still hashing out details between county composter procedures and the Claverack/Philmont DPW. It appears that a small scale program (1-2 containers picked up once a week) would take preference over a larger pilot program. Therefore, funding is needed to purchase small individual containers as well as the large ones and to cover the costs of an educational/promotion campaign. Alton mentioned the possibility of a local farm wanting the food scraps for composting and/or transporting the waste for a fee. Recycling vehicle tags are also available for purchase. To be discussed further.
6. Discussion for a CSC budget came up which would cover the costs of minor incidentals. Claverack CSC requested a small amount for this purpose which was approved.
7. The next meeting to be held September 10, 2025. Alton will investigate possible venue opportunities for an in-person meeting.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino