



Climate Smart Community Task Force  
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 44

September 10, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Arthur King, Haley Balconoff, Anya Bonanno, Eren Aliperti, Alton Earnhart

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 08/13/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Funding Futures, Claverack/Philmont natural environment program - Anya reviewed the procedural changes agreed to by the grantor (PCA) which mainly deal with lengthening the listening segment of the program to include formal interviews with a diversity of candidates. To ensure uniformity a 5-page guide has been created containing preferred questions such as "What do you like best about Claverack's natural environment?", "How has it changed?" and "Is there room for improvement?". The goal is to conduct 100 interviews by Thanksgiving which will require participation by all. The interviews will be compiled and combed for reactions and issues to reveal an itemized list of priorities. Recording the interview is preferred, but only if the candidate agrees. Use of OtterAI app is recommended. Currently, the program calls for two interactive public events to be held in 2026. These will be publicized through social media, posters, postcards, etc. A mail-in ballot to rank the most popular suggestions will be mailed out in March, 2026. Plan to attend the community clean-up day on October 18. Still searching for an events coordinator, so please think about this.
3. Village hall decarbonization – Next Energy World (NEW) has issued their final report and it has been distributed for comment. Tom and Susan are continuing the search for a Design/Build consultant for a cost estimate to administer the construction phase of the project. Tom is in conversation with the neighbor to the west to initiate the concept of a public/private partnership (site host agreement) to share the proposed geothermal energy system. Haley and Tom will meet to upload the remaining documents to the NYSERDA Portal to secure final payment of the grant.
4. NYS Association of Conservation Commissions – Erin has completed the membership application and will coordinate with the Village Office to secure the accompanying check. The association's annual event occurs October 24 and 25 in Kingston. Erin will be able to attend one of the days. If anyone else would like to attend let Erin know so you can be admitted under our membership. Check their website to see how the event could benefit our natural area initiatives.

5. Food scrap pickup – Alton has been investigating aerobic and anaerobic solutions for composting to determine if a local farm would consider foodscrap pick-ups. This concept is working successfully in Red Hook where a local horse farm is mixing manure with collected foodscraps to produce nitrogen-rich fertilizer. Alton will continue research and possibly attend a tour of the Red Hook facility. More information in the next meeting.
6. Discussion for a CSC budget with a request for a small stipend from the Village will continue. We need someone to create a proposed annual budget for incidentals (copying, postage, membership fees, etc.)
7. The next meeting to be held October 8, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino