



Climate Smart Community Task Force
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 45

October 08, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Debra Gitterman, Susan Michie, Sarah Katan, Erin Aliperti, Alton Earnhart, Lynn Hanson, Michael Seserman,
The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 09/10/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Zero Waste Fair – Scheduled to occur January 24, 2026, 11:00AM to 2:00PM, Sarah described the planning so far and what is still needed. Original intent is to have simultaneous fairs, one in Claverack, the second in Philmont. Members discussed not having the bandwidth for two fairs, suggesting holding only one in Claverack. However, this presents the problem of getting those without transportation to the Claverack location. Claverack has scheduled host tables with entities such as Cornell Extension and Ozone. They need one to two PCSC members to volunteer to participate in continued planning to take place in three upcoming scheduled meetings.
3. Village Hall decarbonization – Next Energy World (NEW) has issued their final invoice considering that the final report has been approved. They also are arranging for a proposal for an owners rep/consulting agreement through Aztech Geothermal to cover the NYSERDA requirement for a signed document with a geothermal installer by November 1, 2025. Alison Khachdorian, NYSERDA project manager, will accept this agreement to meet the requirement. Tom met with Brian Johnson and the owner of the neighboring building to discuss the “district energy” concept of sharing the geothermal source generator to serve the two buildings. The idea was well received by both parties and is endorsed by NYSERDA. Agreements need to be created to reflect the concept, and the increased scope will change the geothermal planning. Tom and Susan met with Brian Johnson and Alfandre Consulting who have been engaged to provide a design/build, construction management proposal to take the project through the remaining planning and construction. The resulting proposal will be a key document when requesting Community Resiliency Economic Sustainability and Technology program (CREST) funding.
4. NYS Association of Conservation Commissions – Erin will not be able to attend the October 24 conference. Tom may be able to substitute. Deba said she would request that the Village pay the conference fee.

5. Stewarding Claverack and Philmont Environment (SCAPE) – Several members reported their experience conducting interviews and it appears to be going well. Some take hand notes, most are using Otter app on their phones. The app results can be loaded onto Otter Group Channel and yourideas.scape@gmail.com In the final compilation name and contact information of the interviewee will be redacted, so take that information separately. We need everyone to participate to meet the 100 goal. Philmont Clean-up Day may be an opportunity to take interviews.
6. Food scrap pickup – Alton attended the Redhook event which he said mostly concentrated on the technical aspects. He also mentioned there may be some things learned from the Dutchess County Waste to Energy Program. The main problem seems to be keeping unwanted items out of the collection stream. The first step in Philmont would be a survey of residences and businesses to determine interest in such a program. Perhaps a sample questionnaire could be presented at the next meeting.
7. Budget – with this last payment due to the consultant, the PSCS is nearly out of money. The first step is to establish an “incidental expense” budget on an annual basis. It would be helpful if members could propose what those expenses might be. Tom will ask Claverack CSC for theirs.
8. The next meeting to be held November 12, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino