



Climate Smart Community Task Force
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 47

December 17, 2025

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Susan Michie, Alton Earnhart, Haley Balconoff, Arthur King, Sarah Barton-King

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 11/10/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Zero Waste Fair – Claverack Library was unable to accommodate this event within the time frame and will be rescheduled.
3. Stewarding Claverack and Philmont Environment (SCAPE) – Anya is away, but the unofficial count for total interviews conducted is around 75. It looks like we could get to 100 by the first week of the new year if everyone could squeeze in just 2-3 more interviews. One of Tom's interviewees recommended [A Family Place](#), by Leila Philip which, in addition to covering three centuries of local history, contains detailed descriptions of the English natural garden influence on the already sylvan hillsides descending to the Hudson River. It is a must read for anyone engaged in understanding Claverack's natural setting and it is available in local libraries. Sarah and Arthur mentioned they are in contact with John Philip (Leilla's brother) and would arrange for a possible interview with him. The app results can be loaded onto Otter Group Channel and yourideas.scape@gmail.com Written transcripts can also be emailed to this address.
4. Village Hall decarbonization – Alfandre Architecture, the potential design/build construction management consultant submitted a proposal that includes all tasks from minor design work to construction completion which appears to be acceptable to the Village. With this milestone accomplished, Tom is in process of negotiating funding from both the state senator and representative offices. Both offices have indicated an interest in supporting this project. More to come as these negotiations progress. Simultaneously, PB Inc. has included this project in the DRI/NYForward application. This application has made it to the NYS semi-finals with more to come as this progresses. Finally, the next door neighbor has retained a consultant referred by Tom to provide analysis and design to decarbonize his building and to a share agreement for the geothermal exchange system. This type of agreement is covered under "Climate Mitigation Easement" – a sample of which appears on the NYSDEC website.

5. Food scrap pickup – Alton is continuing researching the possibility of participating in the Taconic hills “School District Composting”. He would also approach the “Rock Solid” church for stewardship possibilities and reach out to the farm at Millers Crossing as a potential recipient of the waste product.
6. Budget – Haley said that the Consolidated Funding Application grants are generally not awarded until January.
7. SCAPE events – Anya is away, but the first event is being planned for February, so we should be hearing from her shortly. Arthur said he would look into the possibility of securing a screening of “The Nature of Nature, Biodiversity in the Hudson Valley.
8. Other – Don’t forget the “Beaver Deceivers” event in the town of Taghkanic January 17, 2026. How to coax beavers to be more respectful of human needs.
9. The next meeting to be held January 14, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino