



Climate Smart Community Task Force  
Village of Philmont, NY

Minutes of Meeting No. 48

January 14, 2026

Attendees: Thomas Paino (Chair), Debra Gitterman, Susan Michie, Alton Earnhart, Arthur King, Erin Aliperti, Lynn Hanson, Michael Sesslerman, Sebastian Schinkel

The meeting took place entirely on Zoom.

1. Minutes for 12/10/25 meeting were approved without comment.
2. Stewarding Claverack and Philmont Environment (SCAPE) – Anya reported that the total number of interviewees now stands at 105. She and Thea Schoep (Claverack Library) reviewed the Churchtown Firehouse space for set-up conditions. The chili dinner event is scheduled for February 5, 2026, at 5:30PM. The brunch event is scheduled for February 21, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Claverack Library. Both events will feature volunteer interviewees willing to publicly air their response to the nature questionnaire. A list of interviewees including contact information and willingness to speak at an event should be provided to Anya. Other needs are “childcare” during the event and transportation.
3. Village Hall decarbonization – Alfandre Architecture has been contracted for design/build construction management services. Their initial information gathering visit took place on January 6 and was accompanied by Tom and Susan. A potential structural issue at the garage level was identified by the structural engineer. His letter of concern will be addressed to the Village engineer for further discussion. Otherwise, no fatal flaws were identified, and an initial report should be completed sometime in early February. Susan will be added to the contact list for correspondence between the consultant and the Village. Tom met with Didi Barrette in an appeal for funding and she agreed to coordinate with Sen. Hinchey’s office. Sen. Hinchey’s office confirmed they received the request and will have a meeting January 23, 2026, to discuss funding the project. submitted a proposal that includes all tasks from minor design work to construction completion which appears to be acceptable to the Village. Simultaneously, PB Inc. has included this project in The DRI application submitted by PB Inc. identifies \$700K for this project. Determination on this application is made later in the year.
4. EV fast charging station – Tom reported that Philmont meets the criteria for the NYSDEC ZEV “no match” program which has a deadline of February 27 (first come, first served). Debra had been in discussions with an experienced consultant referred by Haley who has indicated substantial maintenance and energy costs associated with these types of

stations that would have to be borne by the Village. The payback would depend on the frequency of customer use which is difficult to predict. Debra will continue this conversation with the consultant to determine the viability of the Village taking this on.

5. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) – Tom reported that the grant through the Consolidated Funding Application has been awarded to the Village to cover the costs of an NRI for Claverack Township. Tom will meet with the consultant, Nan Stolzenberg, on Friday to determine how to proceed. Erin agreed to take the lead on administering this project once it gets kicked off. As a reminder, Philmont is the lead agency, but Claverack has agreed to fully participate through their Climate Smart Community. Other volunteer work could include scout troop community service. The scout leader is Caroline O’neill.
6. Tree planting – Tom learned at the county CSC meeting that no-cost mature trees may be available through the County Soil and Water Conservation District. This would be scheduled for a public event around Arbor Day in late April. Tom will pass along the information to Susan who will pursue the matter further.
7. The next meeting to be held February 11, 2026 and will be led by Debra and Michael.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Paino