

Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes October 30, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM

Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk
Catherine Quick, Esopus
Virginia Starke, Hurley
Kristen Schara, Hurley

Amanda Lavelle, UC Dept. of Environment
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz
William More, At Large, Kingston
Cindy Lanzetta, At Large, Marlborough

Guests:

Chris White, Deputy Director of UC Planning Dept.

Catskill Rail Trail Presentation

Chris White presented an overview of the Catskill Rail Trail project. A copy of his PowerPoint slides can be viewed on the UC website. Much of the presentation centered around the problems of the “rail with trail” option advocated by those who would like to have the option of a railroad line alongside the Catskill Rail Trail. A short Q & A followed: **Q** - Would the rail trail be open to equestrian use? **A**- Probably not on DEP lands. **Q** – What are the funding sources for this project? **A** – UC currently has a \$2 million grant to connect the first 2-3 miles from Kingston. The priority would be to complete the first 7 miles from Cornell St. in Kingston to Basin Rd. in West Hurley. Other sources may include DEP, not-for-profit organizations and salvage of the rails. **Q** – Who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the completed rail trail? **A** – UC is looking for a group or multiple groups who could take over sections, similar to the current trail system. Possibilities include DEP, ORDA (Olympic Regional Development Authority) and non-profits such as rail trail enthusiasts.

Department of Environment Update

There is a water resources conference covering current status and planning with regard to climate change scheduled for Nov. 11th at the Mohonk conference center. Please share this with townspeople and officials who may be interested. The UC departments of Planning and Environment will now coordinate their online announcements. The Planning Dept. will publish a listing of grants monthly. The Dept. of Environment will provide a weekly update of notices from the DEC, including projects, SEQR information etc. The Hudson Valley Greenway site also posts available grants.

Old Business

Membership Update

There are 4-5 openings available on the EMC for at-large members. It was suggested the EMC could notify towns without CAC’s to build enrollment.

New Business

The next EMC meeting will be a holiday potluck on Dec. 4th. There will be no meeting in November.

Member Roundabout

Steve Noble – The final report of the City of Kingston Flooding Task Force has been submitted for approval.

Virginia Starke and Kristen Schara– The Hurley CAC is working on revisions to their Open Space Inventory.

Amanda Lavallo – The comment period for the Filtration Avoidance Determination by NYS Dept. of Health extended to 11/15. No turbidity has been noted lately in the Esopus.

Dave Haldeman – UC will be using dry salt on roads this winter, which will result in less sediment residue.

Cindy Lanzetta – The Hudson Valley Regional Council of Recycling attended a presentation by Taylor Biomass regarding their biomass combustion plan. Taylor plans to begin operations next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.