

EMC Meeting February 28, 2018

In attendance:

David Haldeman, Shawangunk, Chair

Amanda La Valle, UC Dept. of the Environment

William More, At Large

Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing,

John Sansalone, Gardiner,

Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties

Kristin Schara, Hurley,

Mark Ellison, Esopus

Judith Karpova, Town of Rochester,

Virginia Starke, At Large,

Emily Hauser, Kingston,

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Minutes from January 31st meeting amended as follows:

- Virginia Starke, At Large was not in attendance. Kristin Schara, Hurley, was in attendance.
- Town of Shawangunk solar law prohibits installations which would clear cut 10 or more acres of forested land, not 10% as per unnoted discussions
- Some language removed re: discussion of Town of Ulster peaker plant
- Wording re Saugerties CSC amended to read as follows: "Saugerties: Climate Smart Communities certification going forward. Will have a speaker at their next CAC. Grants coming out in May for CSC, Saugerties wants to position itself to gain a grant."

David Haldeman wants to have a speaker on wildlife migration, discussion on whom to approach.

Margot Becker approved as EMC Vice Chairperson

Old Business

Discussion on members of EMC weighing in on critical issues between meetings. Question as to whether a virtual "vote" is permissible or only in-person votes at meetings – David Haldeman will find out. Do we have the right to submit our opinion at all? What if our position contradicts the County's?

Town of Ulster Peaker Plant

Amended the letter re: the Town of Ulster proposed natural gas plant and approved. Voted on sending the letter as amended, but with coordination with the County.

Announced strategy meeting of people in opposition to the proposed peaker plant on 03/04/18 in Town of Ulster 10 am to 5 pm at their town hall, 1 lake Katrine Drive. Scheduled speakers include lawyers and organizers who have successfully stopped environmentally dangerous projects in other towns.

Pharmaceutical Take-Back Legislation

State through DEC has put in a pilot program for boxes at drugstores to collect and destroy returned drugs. County has been in discussion with chain and non-chain drugstores, they have concerns about the take-back program. Some are worried about being held up. New Paltz drugstores are going ahead

with the pilot program. Some legislators feel that something is better than nothing. Even though only 2% effective. It was noted that some more stringent, positive movement is taking place at the state level.

Pharma letter passed unanimously with proviso that the EMC co-ordinate with the County.

What is the EMC

The EMC used to do: Solid waste management, Storm King, we were much more educational. Involved grade school kids. Nancy Beard was the director. Biggest effort was to provide a forum for discussion, bring in speakers, have a discussion, then talk to the legislature. Bought a hydro-seeder. Did present policy suggestions, Open Space Plan of the County came out of iteration 4.

Re: the November 2017 Conference of State CACs/EMCs; these bodies were encouraged to make more of an effort to talk to our legislators. But that does not necessarily prevent us from “getting on a soapbox.”

Reports

New Paltz: CVS and Five Guys; effect on traffic patterns, if more cars are stuck in traffic there will be more pollution. 299 and Thruway. Has been a 90-day village moratorium on the parcel; extension of water and sewer district? Originally CVS was going to go on the other side of the thruway, but asbestos issues of old swimming pool came up. Sales push to build on property beyond College Diner; which has had a failing sewer system for decades. This property is all state and federally regulated wetland.

Tabled until next meeting when Jim Littlefoot is here. What and if will be our involvement? Tabled for next meeting.

Dept of the Environment, Amanda LaValle,

Inventory of all fuels used by the county just finished. To comply with Green Fleet law; was just submitted to legislature today. Seeing much better efficiency re: mpg. 100 vehicles 20 mpg etc.

“Shockingly better” fuel efficiency and lower costs. 5% of fleet (460-odd vehicles) is Green; the fleet includes many heavy equipment vehicles (e.g. snow ploughs). Kingston has over 200 vehicles, and a number of EV charging stations.

Solar installation will be activated this month.

April 12, 7 pm, Aaron Bennett and the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) will do a seminar on reading flood plain maps; SUNY Ulster Lounge.

The Ulster County Legislature has a new County-level committee, Energy and the Environment, which is on the county website. The county puts out a book every year on its governmental structure and staff. Will get copies.

Roundabout

Shawangunk: Question: A landowner proposes to clearcut along the Dwaarkill Creek; how to stop this – Responses: check with town planning board, check with DEC. May be in the Shawangunk Creek floodplain. Mapping their conservation lands, land trusts, to get an overview

Saugerties: Europa McGovern spoke in a public meeting about Clean Energy/Climate Smart programs, CAC asked town to appoint it as the task force to gain these certifications. Aquatic invasives in Esopus, water chestnut has taken over, will hand-pull in spring, plus Eurasian milfoil, committee working on this. Where to deposit it? Village picks up leaves; where? How to compost it? Insurance for volunteers. Bristol Beach, town appointed an advisory committee to work with CAC, put in hiking trails, passive recreation,

Gardiner: Working for Climate Smart Communities, working on local law for wetlands and watercourses, start a re-eval of Open Space Natural Heritage.

Hurley: Open Space Plan informational meeting 3/1/18, going forward, public meeting. Bidding to replace street lights with LEDs. Will do a light inventory in March. Met with CH, said they would change to LEDs instead of the town owning the streetlights

Wawarsing: also looking into replacing LEDs into streetlights. Zoning committee, presenting OSP to town,

Kingston: working on NH-OSI, finished writing a contract with Behan for OS Inventory. Burning of wood, wood products, fireplaces, stoves, pellets, air pollution and particulates that can cause lung damage. JMA just came out with a study about this. NYC, San Francisco has banned fireplaces, wood stoves in new construction. Denver banned this 23 years ago. City of Kingston looking into getting a grant to study this. (Pellet stoves vent out the basement) Climate Smart Commission meeting; going through a re-certification, every 5 years. Ulster County Climate Smart working to do energy retrofits with Kingston businesses; March 19th training. Includes Chamber Breakfast, commercial, industrial, changes in PACE, statewide only 32 businesses have used it, law being revised to be used more. Local businesses can use County Law; Kingston and the County are both working to upgrade their PACE/business laws. Just hired a fleet manager (230 vehicles) will install 3 new charging stations.

Bill More: DEC, pilot program for 2-year drugstore dropoff locations, list of drugstores on DEC website.

Kerhonkson: finalizing OS NH plan, will have public meeting on March 13

Esopus: Europa met with Town Board, met Solarize deadline, March 4th a meeting with Riverkeeper, they say that 100,000 people get their drinking water from the Hudson (Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie) 2-4 in town hall, meeting around drinking water. Scenic Resource Inventory, already a Board, doing the Clean Energy Community points, task force designated. Past 10 days, comprehensive plan sent out quotes to planners so it will be done by June. The consultants will work with town planning board. Sent out questionnaires, got 20% back.

Any other Hudson River towns that will get asked about anchorages – rulemaking? How can tanks and ships anchor on the Hudson River. Bypasses coastguard.