

Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes June 28, 2017

Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman (Chair), Shawangunk
Cindy Lanzetta (Vice-Chair) At Large
Kristen Schara (Secretary), Hurley
Jim Mays, Olive
Mark Ellison, Esopus
Emilie Hauser, Kingston
Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of the Environment

Judith Karpova, Rochester
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz
William A. More, At Large
Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties
Eric Stewart, Marbletown
Virginia Starke, At Large

Guests: Julie Noble, 2017 NYSACC/NYSEMC Conference Coordinator, Diane Dintruff, Esopus EB

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm.

May minutes were approved as amended.

Speaker –2017 NYSACC/NYSEMC Conference on the Environment

The NYS Association of Conservation Councils (NYSACC) and the NYS Environmental Management Councils (NYSEMC) are to hold a joint statewide meeting to be hosted by the City of Kingston on Nov. 3-4. The local organizer determines the theme and agenda details. Friday night could include workshops, a cocktail hour, or a hosted dinner. Saturday's agenda will focus on workshops and presentations. A field trip on Sunday is possible. Agenda ideas include a panel on NRI's/open space plans, examples of how municipalities can coordinate with land conservancies, training on the Land Use theme of Google Earth, pollution prevention as it relates to food waste (Hudson Valley Regional Council), local food production, pesticide use, the CEC and CSC programs, Energize NY, Grants Gateway training, Solarize campaigns, Mohonk research programs. Riverkeeper water quality data, Town of Esopus projects, credited training sessions for municipal boards, how to disseminate information to and engage the public, the League of Women Voter's solid waste program, a poster session for research papers, training on how to run an ECC or CAC. Field trip suggestions include Mohonk, the Hudson Valley Farm Hub, co-packing at Tech City, and UCRRA composting facility. Julie welcomes ideas and volunteers. Her email address is julienoble@kingston-ny.gov. She needs locations for meeting space and field trips. The goal is 100 participants. Local sponsorship could help defray the cost. Some meals may be included. A fee in the range of \$25-35 may be charged.

Old Business

The US Coast Guard scuttled its proposal to designate new berthing sites on the Hudson. NYS passed legislation to control the waterway.

New Business

A member of the public requested assistance in reporting issues with recycling concerning SUNY New Paltz students. In his opinion, the students do not appear to be recycling properly, especially at the end of the year. Reusable items have been dealt with but not recycling. EMC response – He could notify the UCCRA enforcement officer or the recycling coordinator for off-campus issues. There is an Environmental task force that meets at SUNY and a campus sustainability coordinator. The New Paltz transfer station may have authority also. The Town of New Paltz has a recycling coordinator. Members of the EMC expressed concern over the EPA's latest assessment of the Hudson River PCB cleanup project. Mary will research the issue for the EMC to provide advice to the Legislature and the community. There will be no EMC meeting in July.

Dept. of Environment Update/Legislative Update

The UC Dept. of Health provided information on tick avoidance, and permethrin use on clothing. They have tick removal kits available.

The county has a local law banning pesticides/herbicides on county owned or leased property. The U&D Railroad has sprayed corridor in the past. Waivers can be obtained, there has been no decision for this year. Weed trimmers are a problem because debris can get on the rails.

The UC notification law requires homeowners to notify adjacent neighbors when herbicides such as Round-Up are sprayed on an area greater than 100 ft². Many commercial use granular products that are not covered. Signs must be placed and dated. Incidents are investigated by the DEC when complaints are made. Commercial applicator licenses can be held up.

Amanda drove a Nissan Leaf to the meeting which was recently purchased through the NYS buying program. She invited EMC members to look at it after the meeting. Kingston Nissan won the bid. The Leaf was purchased at the state price with rebates which reduced the cost down to \$16,000. Another aggregate bid will be due in August. Many towns now have charging stations. The EV Connect has a platform that can accept many different types of plugins. High traffic, public exposure sites are preferred. Amanda Wolfson emailed information to EMC members about this. Municipalities do not have to execute a contract with the state to purchase. The cost is about \$7500 for hardware. Wiring and installation labor would be additional.

The UC Legislature did not meet. There is a 2 MW solar installation planned in Saugerties.

Roundabout

Mark Ellison – There is a meeting scheduled on July 19th regarding invasive species. The ECC did a brief survey at Sleightsburg Spit, but the *Carex frankii* (Frank's Sedge) was not ready to be observed. They will try again in July. Their survey received 600 responses so far and will close out this week. It will be used for the Comprehensive Master Plan.

William More – The EPA passed a rule on hazardous waste rule to remove ambiguities. The comment period regarding the Hudson River PCB cleanup project is open until Sept. 1st.

Jim Mays – The CAC completed its second “meet the contractors” event for Solarize Rondout with Marbletown and Rochester. The event well attended. They are considering a 3rd event. Avenues for better outreach, e.g. Facebook, Planning Smart Olive are being considered. There is an open house planned at SUNY New Paltz regarding microgrids

Jim Littlefoot – There is a Tiny Houses Festival at the UC Fairgrounds the weekend of July 1st.

Emilie Hauser– The CAC continues to work on their NRI and issues related to wood burning. The light consortium is working on an RFP to enable smaller municipalities to jointly buy hardware and services to replace LEDs. Kingston will require 2000 bulbs/fixtures. Disposal of old bulbs must be addressed. Steve Noble joined the Mayors National Climate Change Agenda and advocated passing a resolution supporting the Paris Treaty. Their Unified Solar Permit was finalized. The city is putting in charging stations in the Rondout and Midtown.

Mary O'Donnell– The CAC is waiting to hear from the town if they are going to apply for a Hudson River Estuary Program grant for Bristol Beach to provide universal access.

Diane Dinruff – The water chestnut harvester was broken but is now back in operation. Water chestnuts have migrated to Chodikee Lake and Black Creek.

Judith Karpova – The ECC is wrapping up their Open Space Plan and Natural Heritage Inventory. They are discussing regulations to add names to streams to increase the required buffer width from 50 to 100 ft. per federal law.

Kristen Schara – The town supervisor and board will provide comments to the Open Space Plan in the fall.

Cindy Lanzetta – The CAC worked on a solar zoning law. The town has requested a land use package to provide design guidelines modelled on one from UC.

Eric Stewart– They sponsored a Solarize event on Saturday. The Drive and Shine event on July 15th will include Solarize Rondout, a ribbon cutting for an EV station and a Sierra Club presentation. The ECC won a CEC grant to retrofit the Marbletown community center. They are putting together a package of incentives for homeowners and businesses to promote energy efficiency and solar. There is a proposal for an EV charging station in High Falls. There will be a dedication ceremony for the pollinator garden in the early fall.

Virginia Starke – The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development is planning to sell 36 acres of donated land. They would prefer to sell to a buyer willing to conserve the natural features. Twin Lakes may be interested in it as a buffer for their facility.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Handouts – “Use Insect Repellents Safely”, NYSDOH, “Permethrin Fact Sheet”, TickEncounter Resource Center 2017