

Ulster County E.M.C.

Minutes for

June 27, 2018

Present:

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz

Will. More, At-Large

Amanda LaValle, Dept. of the Environment

Jim Mays, Olive

Emilie Hause, (C) Kingston

Judith Karpova, Rochester

Margot Becker, At-Large

Ken Panza, Woodstock (effective July 1, 2018)

John Sansalone, Gardiner

1. Called to Order 6:40 p.m.

2. Old Business

A. Approval of prior minutes

A quorum had to be established. There was a question as to the required number, as a new member becomes effective on July 1. There was then a broad discussion of the nature of the minutes, their format, and more. J. Karpova resigned as Secretary. It was agreed that on an interim basis, recording secretary duties would be rotated among the membership, with J. Sansalone performing the function for this meeting, and E. Hauser acting as Secretary for the next meeting

Upon motion by J. Sansalone, seconded by E. Hauser, it was agreed that there would be no July meeting, and the next one would be on Aug. 28. Vote was 6 aye, 1 nay, 1 abstention.

There followed a discussion on the need to have a regular, paid secretary, to take minutes. The EMC effectively has no budget, other than a membership subscription to NYSACAC. It is currently budget preparation time, so contact will be made to the County, to seek a budget of \$1500 – 2,000, to cover secretarial costs (est. at \$20/hr X 50 hrs/yr), and some other misc. expenses, such as conferences, etc. Approval of the prior minutes was tabled.

B. Plastic bag ban

After discussion, and several minor edits, upon motion by J. Sansalone, seconded by W. More, the draft letter in support of the proposed ban (bill drafted by T. Bartels), was agreed to. Approval was unanimous.

C. Proposed seminar on sold waste in the Fall

Discussion was held on proposed State requirement (to become effective Jan., 2021) to transport food wastes to STPs with anaerobic digestors. Unclear as to whether legislative or regulatory, and as to precise status. There was further discussion on current practices and costs. It was agreed that this is a subject that should be included.

D. Glidepath / Peaker plant proposal

There is no new information as to status. Mike Hein has sent a letter to NYSERDA and the PSC, which was reviewed. Discussion broadened to include proposal to re-activate the Danskammer plant as a peaking plant, and the inconsistency of the Glidepath proposal in light of this. Upon motion by W. More, seconded by M. Becker, to authorize K. Panza to draft a letter to the PSC requesting that the EMC be included as a stakeholder, the Kingston Library become a repository for records, and that the Daily Freeman be included as a paper of record. Motion carried, with 7 aye and 1 abstention. A. LaValle will contact M. Heins and K. Crannell, to advise them of this situation, and our letter.

3. Report for the Dept. of the Environment

They are attempting to research information on battery storage, relative to the Glidepath project. The PSC has released a “white paper”, to wards developing an energy roadmap.

A “Green Business Challenge” breakfast had just been held at the Best Western. Participants included the DoE, and Economic Development. The aim is to develop “community ambassadors” to help educate localities on energy efficiency, single use plastics, etc. A number of local businesses taking energy conserving steps gave presentations on their efforts, including Mohonk, Frost Valley, Not Bread Alone, and Ryan and Ryan insurance. Volunteer training is scheduled to start on July 18th.

A solar workshop, presented by NYSERDA, is scheduled for Kingston, on June 28th, at 1:00, at the former landfill in Ulster (site of the new solar farm). NYSERDA has developed a new part of their program, to address brownfields sites and former landfills, as potential solar farms.

4. Round-about

A. Ken Panza will become a Woodstock representative to the EMC, effective July 1st. Introductions were made all around.

B. J. Sansalone reported on the NYWEA Spring Meeting, and ongoing efforts for a local Aquifer law and a Wetlands / Water resources law. Also that NYWEA and the ASCE are partnering, to advocate on increase infrastructure, most notably for water and wastewater facilities.

C. J. Karpova reported that the Town voted down inclusion of their open space plan, in the master plan. Kristin Marcel has been appointed their new chair.

D. J. Mays reported that a presentation was given by engineers concerning flood control in the Boiceville area. There is a debate between constructing a berm or buying out properties. Flood insurance rates are increasing rapidly.

E. E. Hauser reported that the previous night, a public presentation was given on their NRI. They are using DEC funding to conduct an urban tree inventory.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50, upon motion by J. Sansalone, seconded by W. More