

Ulster County E.M.C.

Minutes for

August 29, 2018

Present:

Amanda LaValle, Dept. of the Environment
Dave Haldeman, Chair and Shawangunk
Emilie Hauser, C Kingston
Eric Stewart – Marbletown
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz
Jim Mays, Olive
John Messerschmidt, Rochester ECC, substitute for
J. Karpova
John Sansalone, Gardiner
Ken Panza, At-Large
Kristin Schara, Hurley

Mary O'Donnell, T of Saugerties
Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing

Absent

Bill More, At-Large
Judith Karpova, Rochester
Margot Becker, At-Large
Mark Ellison, Esopus
Virginia Starke, At-Large

Oversight

1. **Called to Order** 6:38 p.m.
2. **Approval of prior minutes** of June 27, 2018 were accepted and approved. Minutes May 30, 2018 accepted and approved.
3. **Guests:** None
4. **Old Business**
 - A. Ulster County Recycling Oversight Committee: the County Legislature has requested that a member of the EMC sit on that committee. Margot Becker has volunteered. There is no schedule for seating the members of the ROC.
 - B. Proposed seminar on solid waste in the fall: Dates for the solid waste conference were discussed. The venue is UCCC. The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region is teaming up with the EMC on the conference. One issue is whether the college caterer will provide food and if so, how we can accept money either donations or registration fees. Suggestions were made for dealing with this issue. The agenda will include Challenges for UCRRA, zero waste, recycling, food waste diversion and producer responsibility.
 - C. Paul Hawkins will be at Omega - Oct 19-21st - integrative solutions for communities
 - D. Danskammer Proposed Conversion to Natural Gas: Ken Panza announces that EMC request to have stakeholder status was granted. The request to make Kingston Freeman a medium of record was not accepted. The two-mile study area has been extended to 3 miles, which means in Ulster County, Marlborough, Plattekill Shawangunk are affected municipalities.
Riverkeeper and SH has been briefed. No immediate action taken. It was noted that Danskammer used to pay significant property taxes in Marlborough. Danskammer is a 550 MW plant. Coal piles were flooding during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Nearby Roseton plant is a peaker plant for New England States.

- On Saturday September 8th, there is an event at the Newburgh Free Library on the plans for Danskammer: CLIMATE CHANGE & HOPE IN THE HUDSON VALLEY with information on proposed year-round gas plant at Danskammer, which is clearly NOT a climate solution!
September 08, 2018• 1:00 PM
Location: Newburgh Free Library•124 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550

E. Administration and Records Keeping

There was discussion of informing members when correspondence that is drafted and acted on at meeting is sent out and where the final correspondence can be found. Amanda noted that final correspondence should be archived on website and included in minutes package for that meeting. Members asked it to be placed in Google Group. Minutes are filed with the County Clerk. No action or discussion on finding a paid recording secretary was taken.

No response was received by EMC from the Town of Ulster Supervisor Quigley regarding letter sent DATE

F. Plastic bag ban

The EMC letter in support of the proposed ban (bill drafted by T. Bartels), was sent out after the June meeting. The bill was tabled at the August meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee, attended by Margot and Dave H. Legislators realized the bill needed to have SEQR review.

NOTE: This is a reminder to EMC members that any action like a local law needs to include SEQR language.

4. New Business

A. New York and New Jersey Harbor & Tributaries Study (NYNJ HATS) Coastal Storms Risk Management Feasibility

B. Study aka Army Corps of Engineers Surge Barrier Issue

A letter was drafted prior to the meeting about this issue.

Dave H. clarified when we have individual members of council who are directly affected then we should support them. This is one role of EMC. In the past there have been concerns about whether to comment on projects in towns.

John S. suggested EMC should coordinate the letter with County Executive Michael Hein. Has it been discussed with Mike Hein? Amanda will check on this step. There was discussion on the difference between the NYNJ HATS issue and that of something like Glidepath / Peaker Plant. NYNJ HATS has potential to affect all Ulster County shoreline resources. Paraphrasing Dr. Seuss from The Lorax, “Do we speak for the trees?” Another example is the issue of lower Esopus and sediment releases. Need case by case consideration.

It was noted that Mr. Hein’s letter on Glidepath was not about land use, which is a home rule consideration, but state policies and regulations, etc.

Motion: was made by Mary and Jim L. to discuss the letter to ACOE.

There was further discussion of types of barriers. Some changes to the letter included deleting “most polluted river” and to change No action by the Corps.

The question was called.

Vote: all in favor with Emilie abstaining.

Action is to check in with Mr. Hein and then to send letter by 9/20/2018 deadline, copying the Energy and Environment Committee.

C. Waste UCRRA organized a visit to Dutchess County waste-to-energy facility in Poughkeepsie on August 22. The DCRRA facility takes in 164,000 ton per year. It is at capacity. There is no capacity for

Ulster MSW. The remaining ash is used in concrete or for landfill cover. The plant produces electricity for 10,000 homes, equivalent. Methane and mercury are monitored.

NYSAR3 is sponsoring a Sustainable Materials Management Tour on Sept 11th, to sites in Ulster and Dutchess.
<http://efc.syr.edu/sustainable-materials-management/smm-tour-series/>

Report for the Dept. of the Environment

Third Drive Electric Event is 10 am to 2 pm at the County Courthouse parking lot on September 8, 2018 in Uptown Kingston. Please post and share flyers. Dealers will offer test drives and there will be a presentation at 12 noon

Mike Hein issued an Executive Order for 100% renewables by 20XX. Executive Order for 25% by 2025 already exists.

The greenhouse gas goal (GHG) is in line with the state's goal.

DOE is Executive Order this fall.

Community GHG reduction goal has been set. 40% by 2040 and 80% by 2050, from 2010 numbers. Amanda will send out press release.

Wind resources are not good in the Hudson Valley.

Ulster County Legislature is considering banning plastic straws. Or if not a ban, ask restaurants to not automatically give them out. It was noted that Iris Blum from Marbletown has been championing straw issue. There is no enforcement. Mountain Brauhaus in Gardiner is recognized as a leader.

Roundabout

Saugerties: Saugerties has formed a Climate Smart Community (CSC) Task Force. GHG inventory almost complete. It has applied for a grant for energy audits for municipal buildings. It is conducting LED inventories for street lights and off - street lights. . CSC Saugerties website is going to launch soon. It also has a Facebook page. Saugerties is also designated Clean Energy Community (CEC).

The CAC is trying to address Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut in the Esopus Creek, above the dam. It is difficult to paddle through the water. CAC members met with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Catskill and Lower Hudson Regional Invasive Species Partnership and DEC staff recently. They will be exploring different methods of controlling the invasive species.

Town is planning to send a letter or resolution on ACOE surge barriers issue.

Power plants; Looking into a moratorium on power plants for one year. The issue is that for >25 MW plants are covered by Article 10, so the PSC is primary agency in charge of review. < 25 MW is not covered by PSC, towns must review. Commercial and industrial zone is permitted in zoning for GlidePath. Opponents are saying that the zoning wording was the intent.

There have been inquiries about small power plants in other towns. Similar projects could happen.

This is like large scale solar: moratoriums were put in place. Is it accessory use?

Scenic Hudson will be doing a webinar on moratoriums to review zoning.

John Sansalone: NYWEA conference is on September 12 in Saugerties. There is a good article on Harmful Algae Blooms in NYSDEC Conservationist.

Gardiner: Gardiner is considering conducting a new NRI.

Hurley: Hurley is conducting a light survey for conversion to LEDs. NY Power Authority representative has a presentation on switch out work and to maintain. CH has also made a proposal. Comparing pay-off times. The

town planning board made a notice of intent to be lead agency on a 46-apartment unit at old West Hurley School.

Wawarsing: Open Space Plan was approved by the Town to be integrated into Comprehensive / Master Plan. Town has a grant to revamp Berme Road Park which is at the end of trail along the Shawangunk Ridge.

Rochester Town accepted the Open Space Plan, but not for adoption into Comprehensive Plan. Kristin Marcell is now chair of CAC. Working on becoming a Climate Smart Community.

Woodstock: Ann Brandt, a long time CAC and EMC member, passed away recently. Dave sent a note of condolence. Comp Plan Committee and has moved the plan to the Town Board and passed the SEQR. Catskill Center is working at Thorn Preserve on raising biocontrol insects for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. On July 21: Catskill Mountainkeeper had an instructional walk at Cuomo Property. Habitats for pollinators: trying to get solar farms to put in pollinator plants: native. Cypress Creek solar project in Town of Kingston has policy for pollinators.

Marbletown: They are looking into Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Town Board is pursuing and will purchase clean energy but thru Central Hudson. Working with Joule Energy to arrange for supplies, wind, solar, geothermal for all consumers with an opt out. This is what Tom Conrad does. It will save average consumer about 10%. Sources will be within region. EV chargers installed at Town Hall. ECC is working on 100% renewable goals: gathering information to get information, working with Melissa Everett at Sustainable Hudson Valley. They are planning events in October on energy.

It was noted that other communities are interested in Community Choice Aggregation, including Saugerties. 24 municipalities mostly in Westchester County are participating in CCA.

Amanda noted that DOE is doing base mapping and zoning on properties and roof tops and parking lots, for solar projects mostly. DOE has access to parcel data and heat sources for a property. Information includes size of structure and fuel type: Wood fired, oil and gas. DOE is providing data in PDFs with layers. Towns can ask for.

High Falls is redoing hamlet plan with linear park to link O & W Rail Trail and Wallkill Rail. Historic and sidewalks included. Town Board, Barton and Loguidice Inc. and civic organizations are involved. The Town applied for a grant for sewage district in High Falls.

Fire Training Center located near wet soccer field near UCCC. Six structures and a 40 feet tower. No burning. It is a huge point of contention in Marbletown but may end up being in Town of Ulster. It was noted that fire fighters need the training.

It was suggested that the County could help with Walker Valley training center to support and help with Town of Ulster. Help with UCCC project on soccer field. Direct neighbors are in opposition.

Kingston: Three electric vehicle charging stations are being installed and there will be ribbon cutting around Drive Electric week. A resolution on Coastal Storms Risk Management Feasibility Study is being considered by Common Council. Open Space Public Participation Meeting will be Tuesday September 25 from 5 to 8 pm. On Friday afternoon Oct 19th there is as High-Water Festival on the Rondout which will focus on past, present and future of waterfront. Between 2 and 5 pm, events are focused on decision makers, evening events will be for

public and children. Hudson River Environmental Society Fall Eco-Tour: on The Upper Hudson River of Washington County is on Saturday September 22nd.

Olive CAC:

They have been discussing revising and reviewing work done on NRI which resulted in 1995 book called Ashokan Catskills by John Bierhorst. Concern about privacy/protection of archeological sites: location is closely held by building inspector. No public record. Also, updates may be needed for rare plants. Olive CAC is had a guest speaker on Community Choice Aggregation. No action. Pollinator gardens have been established but need to be maintained. Highway Dept mowed them. Town Office Building got solar panels. Rail Trail on 28 is progressing. Steel has been removed. There is a highway clean-up October 13.

New Paltz: nothing to report

Shawangunk: Money to extend Rail Trail is coming closer to fruition. There was an incident where land was clear cut down to a stream. CAC is interested in exploring putting 50-foot buffers on all named streams.

Adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Emilie Hauser