

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Margot Becker, Vice-Chair
Kenneth Panza, Secretary

Minutes for the EMC Meeting of September 25, 2019

A quorum not present, an informal meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:40 PM in the Howard C. St. John Business Seminar Room, George Clinton Hall, on the campus of SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge, NY, by David Haldeman, Chair.

Municipal Members Present

Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties
Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley

Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

Guests

Tracey Bartels, Chair, Ulster County Legislature

At Large Members Present

Margot Becker
William More
Kenneth Panza
Virginia Starke

Approval of Minutes

A quorum not present, the minutes of the **July 31, 2019** EMC meeting were not considered.

Speaker/Presentation

Tracey Bartels, Chair, Ulster County Legislature

The chair introduced Tracey Bartels and asked her to explain the legislature's environmental priorities. The short answer is trash: solid waste disposal, recycling, and composting.

Ulster County trash is trucked to the Seneca Meadows landfill, about 230 miles distance, and which is scheduled to close in five years. In five years, Ulster County has to have alternatives for trash. One answer is to create a local landfill, but an important part of the solution is to reduce the waste stream.

The RRA is working on a 20-year waste management plan, but it's important to reduce the quantity of waste thorough recycling and composting. Tracy described her visits to recycling centers that process waste materials and plastics for reuse. Compostable food waste is a major component of the waste stream, and the legislature is considering laws that would require more food waste to be composted.

Tracy's objective is to make some fundamental decisions about waste management during the next legislative session.

Old Business

850 Route 28 LLC Site Plan / Special Use Permit Application

The Town of Kingston Planning Board voted to rescind its March 18 determination that there would be no adverse environmental impact from a steel and concrete fabrication plant proposed for 850 State Route 28.

Solid Waste Disposal Facility, Town of Saugerties

No action was taken. The issue is now before the courts.

Danskammer Stipulation Process

Danskammer Energy, LLC, released proposed stipulations on September 6, 2019, which commences a 30-day public comment period.

2019-2020 Goals and Objectives

Consideration of the list of activities accumulated and published by Margot Becker.

The purpose is to share successful programs with the county's environmental commissions. The chair reported that the Town of Shawangunk's solar law was recognized by the American Farm Land Trust as one of the best. Based on this recommendation, Margot Becker, Vice-Chair, will prepare a distribution for the towns suggesting consideration of the Shawangunk's solar law as a useful template for local solar laws.

(A copy of Town of Shawangunk's solar law is attached.)

New Business

Chair initiated a short discussion about EMC promoting an effort to distribute tree seedlings for planting.

Report from Department of the Environment

Ulster County Department of the Environment, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, received a grant to inventory and assess culverts within the Lower Esopus Watershed and develop town-wide, municipal road-stream crossing management plans for the towns of Woodstock, Kingston, and Saugerties.

Reviewed the status of the EMC members.

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

No report.

Council Member Roundabout

Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties

Saugerties has been awarded Bronze certification under New York's Climate Smart Communities program. The Saugerties Town Board established a climate smart task force 14 months ago, and since then, the task force has been working towards certification. Next step is to work on a community wide climate action plan.

Saugerties completed its Climate Action Plan for governmental operations.

Saugerties completed its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for governmental operations.

Four EV charging stations have been installed: two at Cantine Field, and one each at the senior center and the library.

Held a resiliency workshop with Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, and others to document critical infrastructure.

Saugerties police department acquired a hybrid police car and intends to replace existing vehicles with hybrid versions.

Efforts are being made to remove Eurasian milfoil, an invasive plant species, from the lower Esopus Creek.

Margot Becker, at Large Member

Attended a Global Climate Strike rally and was impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of the participants.

Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley

Hurley imposed a moratorium on multiple unit developments because of issues and concerns raised by the proposed redevelopment of the former West Hurley School.

Kenneth Panza, Woodstock

The existing bridge over the Sawkill on Zena Rd., which was built in 1931 and refurbished in 1995, will be replaced. At a public meeting in Woodstock, the neighbors reported this is an area of substantial flooding caused by Fontyne Kill, a tributary that enters the Sawkill just below the Zena Rd. bridge.

Prepared a GIS map of the town's drinking water wells in Bearsville and nearby septic systems showing FEMA's 100-year and 500-year flood zones. Met with Aaron Bennett, Deputy Coordinator at Ulster County Department of the Environment and GIS specialist, who explained the FEMA GIS based flood maps and provided copies of the FEMA digital datasets.

New York State launched the sustainable Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2), an initiative to provide municipalities with the resources and tools to protect their drinking water sources. The Town of Woodstock applied and was accepted into the program, but the effort has been delayed because the required documentation has not been released.

Attended the NYC Watershed Science and Technical Conference held at the Diamond Mills Hotel in Saugerties. John Sansalone was very active in this organization, and the conference offered, in memoriam, a tribute to his work.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Panza", written in a cursive style.

Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary

Attachments

Town of Shawangunk Local Law No. 1 of the year 2018, "Solar Energy Systems."