

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Minutes for the EMC Meeting of January 29, 2020

A quorum present, the regular 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

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus
Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston
Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz
Jim Mays, Town of Olive
Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley

At Large Members Present

Margot Becker
William More
Kenneth Panza

Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

Guests

Maxanne Resnick, Executive Director, Woodstock Land Conservancy
Zura & Victor Capelli

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **December 11, 2019** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved by unanimous consent.

Speaker/Presentation

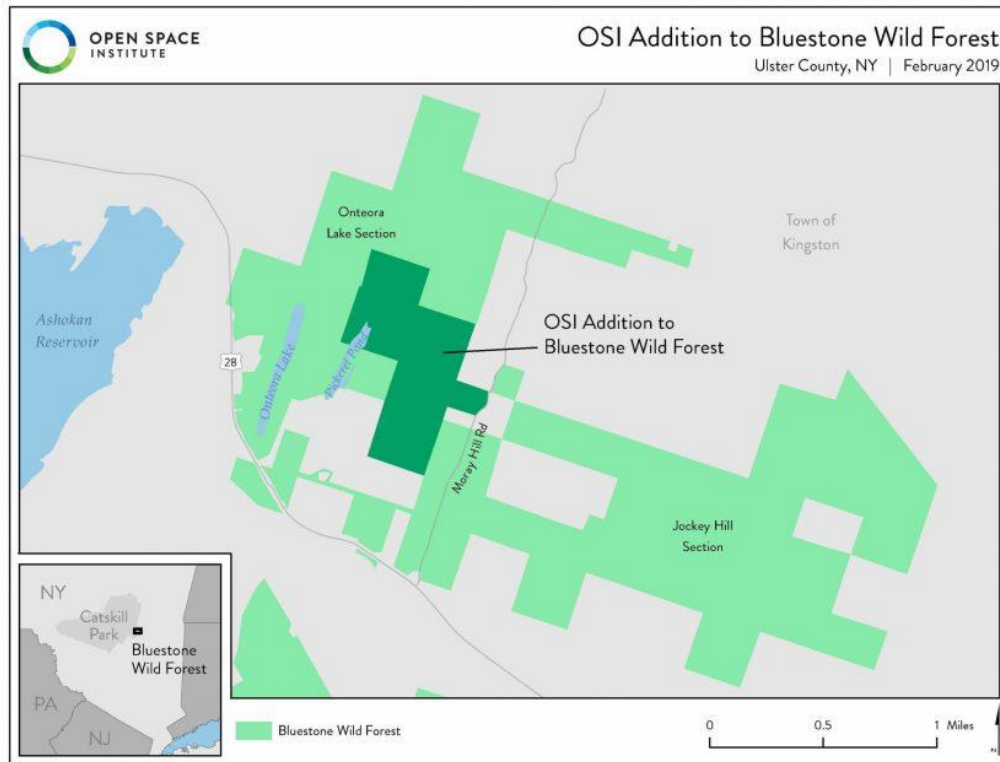
Maxanne Resnick, Executive Director, Woodstock Land Conservancy

850 Route 28 LLC Site Plan / Special Use Permit Application

The 850 Route 28 LLC was the subject of a public meeting Wednesday evening, January 22, 2020 at the Clifford Middle School, a meeting which drew about 200 people. The project calls for the construction of two 120,000-square-foot buildings for the manufacture of steel and precast concrete bridge decking. If approved, the manufacturing buildings would be constructed on the site of a former quarry surrounded by the Bluestone Wild Forest Preserve and Open Space Institute property.

The Open Space Institute (OSI) acquired land in February 2019 that would link two previously unconnected sections of the Catskill Park's Bluestone Wild Forest: Jockey Hill to the east and Onteora Lake to the west. Located ten minutes from the NYS Thruway in Kingston, the acquisition creates regional connectivity of protected lands, and permanently protects a scenic, forested parcel for public enjoyment and recreation. In addition to permanently protecting the land, OSI is creating a 6-mile trail network on the forested property.

OSI, working with the Woodstock Land Conservancy and Tahawus Trails and in coordination with DEC, bicycle advocacy group Fats in the Cats and others, is developing a trail plan to enhance the existing dirt roads and build new trails on the property with minimal impact to the landscape. The trail improvements will include the construction of a parking area, trailhead, and signage kiosk. Once completed, the multi-use trail will be open for hikers, mountain bikers, runners, and walkers; and connect to existing state trails. The gently sloping, family-oriented trails will run alongside bluestone outcroppings, creating another fun and relaxing way to enjoy Bluestone Wild Forest.



During this same period, the owner of a 110-acre parcel within the Bluestone Wild Forest began planning for the construction of a large-scale manufacturing facility. The project proposes clearing 21 acres of trees, blasting and moving 405,000 cubic yards of rock, and constructing two buildings totaling 240,000 square feet. Project consultants stated that construction will take four to five years and occur on weekdays from 6 am to 7 pm, and that 12,500 truckloads will be required to remove 162,000 cubic yards of material. The applicant requested that the project be permitted to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week when completed.

In March 2019, the Town of Kingston Planning Board issued a negative declaration, despite numerous identified but unaddressed potential impacts on water and air quality, noise, traffic, visual impacts and traffic on surrounding properties. In August 2019, after considerable public outcry, the Planning Board rescinded the negative declaration and required the applicant to address the comments about potential impacts.

Report from Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

- Discussion of the newly released Ulster County Climate Action Plan postponed to next meeting.
- EMC members that have been reappointed by the legislature need to submit a notarized copy of their oath of office.

New Business

Election of Officers

The following EMC officers for 2020 were elected by unanimous consent.

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

Danskammer Article 10 Proceedings – Kenneth Panza

The Danskammer Article 10 application was submitted to the Siting Board, December 11, 2019.

\$400,000 in Intervener Funds is available from Danskammer to support participation in the Article 10 proceedings.

Danskammer Sign-On Letter – Margot Becker

Food & Water Watch is circulating a petition for elected officials to sign asking the governor to deny state permits for Danskammer. The EMC discussed the question of recommending that the executive sign this petition. No action was taken.

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

Because of the new legislative session, there was no meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee this month.

Council Member Roundabout

Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk

- Taylor Biomass' gasification process is under consideration by a Russian task force as one way to deal with their trash problem. A delegation of three experts, who represent the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, toured Taylor's facility. James Taylor, President of Taylor Biomass headquartered in Montgomery, spoke to the EMC last year.
- Shawangunk will pass out tree seedlings for Earth Day.

Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties (by phone)

- Saugerties achieved Bronze Status in the NYSDEC Climate Smart Program, and will now focus on helping the Town Board implement the climate action plan.
- The task force will continue work to achieve Silver Level Status.
- Police Department has acquired a hybrid vehicle and will acquire additional hybrid vehicles each year until the entire police fleet is converted to hybrid.
- A state Supreme Court judge has reinstated the town's ban on illegal dumping at the debris-processing facility on Route 212 owned by Joseph and Rachel Karolys.

Margot Becker, At-Large

Hudson Valley Zero Waste Training, Albany, NY, December 2019 — January 2020 Series.

Class 1: introduction to zero waste.

Class 2: zero waste community principles and tools.

Class 3: zero waste action webinar.

Emili Hauser, City of Kingston

- Presentation on NY Energy Stretch Code by Guest Hugo Jule.
- The Kingston CAC has established a Wood Burning/Air Quality Sub-Committee to address air quality concerns in the City that are not already being addressed through the Climate Smart Kingston and Sustainability work being done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Two particular concerns include: 1) Particulates from Wood Burning and 2) Vehicle Idling.
- Webinar: *Growing Green Cities - Forests and Green Infrastructure for Sustainability, Resilience, and Health*, Tuesday, January 28, 2020. Presenter: Simon Gruber, CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities at Hunter College, City University of New York

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus

- Seedlings will be distributed at Earth Day
- The Dyno Nobel site has been rezoned to light commercial
- Ongoing presentations about composting

Kenneth Panza, Woodstock

- Karolys has been reported dumping fill in Woodstock.
- Woodstock has formally established a Climate Smart Task Force.
- Partnering with Olive and the Hudson River Estuary Program to complete a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI).

Environmental Management Council Minutes for January 2020

Jim Mays, Town of Olive

- Considering a Community Choice Aggregation program (CCA)
- Considering adding solar to the zoning code.
- Launching a Natural Resources Inventory.

Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz

- Serious air and water pollution. Nearby waters are unfit to drink.

Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley

- Liaison from CAC now a member of Planning Board.
- Looking to update and/or replace the aquifer plan.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectively submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary