

Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes December 14, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman, (Chair), Shawangunk

John Sansalone, Gardiner

Kristen Schara, Hurley

James Mays, Olive

Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of the Environment

Guests: Richard Phelps, Beekeeper; Dan MacElrath, Marlboro CAC; Francesca Sansone, Esopus
Environmental Board

William A. More, At Large

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

Kathy Quick, Esopus

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Presentation by Richard Phelps, Bee Keeper

Mr. Phelps provided an overview of the beekeeping process and basic tools starting with the beekeeping box. Each box contains 10 frames. The frames provide a foundation for the bees to construct their honeycombs. Queen and eggs can be bought or trapped when a hive swarms. Bees need to be treated to prevent mite infestations. Mites, which originated in Europe, attack the bees before they hatch and infect them with viruses. Natural treatments for mites include acetic and formic acids. Mites do not effect Africanized bees because they swarm frequently and the mite cycle is broken. Most local bee strains originated in Italy, although there are also some from Russia and a type known as Carnolian. Since the 1990's the beekeeping industry has declined. Colony Collapse disorder seems to be abating, but hives are still being lost in higher numbers than before. Beekeeping clubs provide forums for training and information exchange. Climate change does not seem to have significantly affected honey bees.

Dept. of the Environment Update/ Legislative Update

The EMC Website now displays a membership roster with term dates. UC has been awarded the Clean Energy Community designation. Municipalities earn this award by completing four of the 10 actions outlined in the Clean Energy Community program. UC will now be eligible for grants to pursue additional clean energy projects. Grant monies are significant, no match is required. Kingston and Rosendale are also actively pursuing the designation award. The grants are grouped by the size of municipality. Projects include: improved energy efficiency of buildings, composting collection, and solar panel installation. There is a model law for solar installations smaller than 25 kw available.

The December 2016 issue of National Geographic magazine features UC's environmental efforts.

ESRI now provides maps with natural resource information. Go to their ARC GIS website to get a free account to access their files and create maps for free.

Grant money is available through the DEC for electric vehicles and electric charging stations. The charging stations typically cost \$20,000. There is a 10% in kind contribution required, which could consist of the labor to dig a cable trench, for example. UC can provide demographic information to aid in placement. The grant could be used to purchase fast charging stations but they are more expensive. After 2 years, the municipality will be required to take over the cost.

At the UC charging stations, there were 1,333 charging sessions between January and the end of November, 2016. Twenty eight percent were county vehicles. Non-county vehicles cost \$780. The Chamber of Commerce had donated \$1,000 to cover the cost. The highest traffic occurred at the county office building. The courthouse station was also very high. Fleet vehicles averaged 4 ¢/mile for the electric/gas hybrids

Old Business

The shopping bag issue is on hold in the UC Legislature due to other priorities. Mr. Haldeman sent a letter to the UC Legislature Energy and Environment Subcommittee in support. He also sent a letter regarding the creation of 43 anchorage berths on the Hudson River to the DEC.

Roundabout

John Sansalone – The NYWEA annual winter meeting will be held the first week of February in New York City. There was a Woodlands and Wetlands workshop which covered the importance of these habitats and how to protect them.

Jim Mays – The Town of Olive has appointed a Climate Smart Communities Committee. They are having a teleconference meeting with Dazzle Ekblad of DEC to move ahead. There was a well-attended public meeting to unveil the preliminary design for the Ashokan Rail Trail. It will run through DEP property and is based on removal of the rails. DEP would not allow both rail and trail to coexist due to width constraints in several areas (rock cuts, elevated segments, etc.).

William A. More – Hazardous waste rules are changing in May. The DEA drug drop off in Saugerties went well. All pharmacies must maintain a sign not to flush drugs down the drain.

Emilie Hauser – Consultant John Mickelson is working on the NRI maps using Google Earth. They were asked to look at the natural areas in the comprehensive plan. They are also looking at the health effects of wood burning. It may be a challenge to design and enforce rules regarding this. They are working on Clean Energy Communities Certification. The Hudson Valley Greenway is designing a walking trail from NYC to the Adirondacks.

Dan MacElrath – They are working on a solar zoning law using Rochester's as a model. They are evaluating the Climate Smart Communities program.

Kathy Quick – The town is preparing to put out an RFP for new Comprehensive Plan. They are moving ahead with a project to install solar panels on the landfill. The energy generated will be used to offset the the water treatment plan via net metering.

Dave Haldeman – There is a project in Clarkston with 8000 panels on a landfill. The Wallkill Rail Trail will extend another mile to the prison. They want to interconnect with other rail trails.

Francesca Sansone – They are working on scenic areas. There was a presentation at the Wallace Center.

Next Meeting – January 25th.

Mr. More made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sansalone seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:30.