

Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes March 30, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Cindy Lanzetta (Vice Chair), Marlborough
John Sansalone, Gardiner
William A. More, At Large, Kingston
Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk
Amanda LaValle and Alanna Henneberry, UC Dept. of the Environment

Emilie Hauser, Kingston
Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties
Virginia Starke, Hurley

Guests: Jim Mays, Olive CAC, David Yozzo, Hurley CAC

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

William motioned to approve the February minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Dave. Motion carried: Yeas – 6; Nays – 0; Abstentions - 2.

Old Business

John motioned to vote for the EMC 2016 Slate: Chairperson – Dave Haldeman, Vice Chairperson - Cindy Lanzetta, Kristen Schara - Secretary. Virginia seconded Motion carried unanimously.

Omega Institute Retreat - Alana presented a sample schedule. The workshop is set for May 6-7. There are 16 slots available. The EMC will invite CAC members from towns such as Woodstock, Kingston, Rosendale, Esopus, and Lloyd. The ad-hoc planning committee has had some preliminary discussions about what the sessions should consist of. It was suggested that a copy of the establishing legislation should be provided. The NYS Association of Environmental Management Councils may be a resource. Amanda will reach out to the town CAC's, representatives of the DEC. The ad-hoc committee will work on a survey focusing on the needs of CAC's for Amanda to circulate. Polling planning boards was also suggested.

Ulster County Legislature Update /Dept. of Environment Update

The UC Planning Dept. sponsored a seminar on zoning for solar for municipalities. The seminar was led by Jessica Bacher from the Pace Land Use Law Center. There was a very good turnout. Amanda will provide a copy of the presentation to the EMC members. The Climate Smart Communities Committee and Manna Jo Greene are sponsoring a workshop focusing on leases for large solar array installations on April 4th in Rosendale. There was a Rondout Creek Summit sponsored by Riverkeeper which included the CAC members from Wawarsing, Rochester, Marletown and Rosendale. Presentations included water quality monitoring, culvert assessment and the work being done by CAC's. A listing of Earth Day events will be emailed to EMC members. The green wall at the STRIVE facility in Kingston will be planted on April 22nd. It was suggested that a calendar of events would be useful on the EMC website.

New Business

The UCRRA has scheduled a Household Hazardous Waste collection for April 16th. An appointment is required. Visit their website for information or to sign up online. They will also accept pharmaceuticals.

Creek Week - Dates were set for September 10th – 25th. It will be timed to correspond with the NYWEA conference at the Diamond Mills Hotel in Saugerties on September 13th. The conference offers the opportunity to present technical papers about area projects. Creek Week event organizers can publicize their events in the Hudson River Valley Ramble Magazine if they submit by the deadline

Member Roundabout

John Sansalone – The Hudson River Environmental Society is presenting a conference on May 4th regarding the impact of the Mohawk River on the Hudson River. The town supervisor attended their ECC meeting to discuss their involvement with a problematic residential driveway project and to discuss communication issues among the town boards. Work is resuming on the local watershed law.

Mary O'Donnell – Solarize Saugerties kickoff event was attended by 100 people resulting in over 50 leads. They are sponsoring an event for business owners on April 11th. Lighthouse Solar is the solar contractor. There will also be an open house and 2 more workshops, one each in April and May. The town is looking to do a solar farm to offset municipal accounts. The economics of a large project may not be justified if the cost of electricity is too low. A group is working on the Pilgrim Pipelines to determine what should be included in the EIS. The town is analyzing the implications of bringing the Bristol Beach Park back under town ownership including a feasibility study for utilization.

Dave Haldeman – The Interfaith Earth Action Coalition is planning an Earth Day Fair on April 16 including music and vendors on the grounds of the New Paltz Reformed Church.

Kristen Schara – The CAC has scheduled a BioBlitz on May 21st from 10 AM – noon. They are looking for volunteers with expertise in identifying flora and fauna, especially birds, to help. The Burroughs Society and the DEC could be resources. Work is continuing on their Open Space Plan.

Emilie Hauser – The CAC had a conference call with Kate Hudson regarding the Pilgrim Pipelines. Members of the Climate Smart Kingston Committee were appointed by the mayor. They had their first meeting today. They have a climate action plan from 2010 which they can use for analysis. The CAC continues to work on an NRI. There is an interest in regulations concerning burning inside the home relating to air pollution. The CAC and the Tree Commission are meeting to clarify their responsibilities and working relationship.

Jim Mays – The Ash Tree Removal project on hold because the soil, which is partially on a landfill, is too soft. There was an energy conservation workshop by RUPCO, including information on home energy audits. Solid waste is being examined due to increased costs along with a drop in revenue for recycling. The town would like to ensure that costs are covered. There was a conference hybrid chestnut trees. They are working with Solarize Hudson Valley. The town does not have a recent master plan. They are considering revising the zoning code which has not been substantially revised since it was initially passed. It was suggested that the Hudson Valley Greenway may have grants to initiate a new plan. The UC Planning Board may also be helpful in devising a comprehensive plan.

Cindy – The CAC was asked by the town board to participate in appointing a committee to oversee the process of adopting the unified solar zoning code. The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region has invited UC Legislator Tracy Bartels to speak about the Styrofoam ban on April 5th at 5:30. It is open to the public. Refer to their website for details. They have a task force to looking at solid waste issues.

Dave requested suggestions for guest speakers. A comparison of the risk associated with rail vs. pipeline transport of oil was suggested.

John made a motion to adjourn. William seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:24.