

**Columbia County  
Environmental Management Council  
Meeting Minutes  
25 April 2011**

**Present**

Ed Simonsen, Chairman, Kinderhook  
Jamie Purinton, Ancram  
John Adams, Canaan  
Kate Cashen, Claverack  
Guy Winig, Hillsdale  
Michael O'Hara, City of Hudson  
Melissa Sorman, Gallatin  
John Dax, New Lebanon  
Dan Marcus, Stockport  
Kathy Schneider, Stuyvesant  
Scott Stackpole, Taghkanic  
Ed Van Nostrand, CCDOH  
Theresa Mayhew, CCE

**Regrets**

Harvey Weber, Copake  
Dean Vander Schaaff, Livingston  
Karen Mort, Ghent

**Absent**

Deirdre Henderson, Chatham  
Frances Szasz, Germantown  
Louise Bliss-Kenneally, Greenport

**Vacancies**

Town of Austerlitz  
Town of Clermont

**Guests**

Bethany Colgrove, Hudson HS

**Call to Order**

Chairman Ed Simonsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and noted that a quorum to conduct official business was present. Scott Stackpole introduced Bethany Colgrove, who is a student at Hudson High School and president of the school's environmental club. She also started a recycling program at

Walgreen's (her employer), by bringing the discarded/unused flyers from her employer to the high school for recycling at no cost to the school.

Motion to approve the minutes from February 2011 and March 2011 was made by Mike O'Hara and seconded by John Adams. The minutes were approved by all.

### **Chairman's Report**

**Speaker Series:** Ellen Epstein (CLC) sent a list of possible speakers/topics for future events. It was suggested that we prioritize them based on what areas were of interest to the group. Dan Marcus volunteered to study the list and set priorities for the Council to consider.

**EMC Chain of Communications:** John Adams followed-up the chain of communications with the Board of Supervisors and Rick Keveaney, Chair of the Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Committee to clarify the EMC's reporting structure. It was made clear that the EMC is an advisory council to the full Board of Supervisors and it was our option to consult with the Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Committee prior to sending any correspondence to the full Board of Supervisors. There was some discussion about getting the support of one of the clerks or an intern to help with the meeting minutes, as well a brief discussion about re-appointments and members needing to approach their Town Board/Supervisor for re-appointment. It was reported that Ken Flood has distributed the EMC's 2010 year-end report to the Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Committee for their review and approval/acceptance at their May meeting.

### **Old Business**

**Environmental Resource Protection Questionnaire:** John Dax and Jamie Purinton explained how they developed the Environmental Resource Questionnaire. The Columbia County Environmental Management Council (CCEMC) is compiling information on the extent to which environmental resources in the County are protected or regulated by the local laws in place in our towns and other local communities. The CCEMC plans to make this information available as a resource to assist Columbia County communities that are in the process of updating or amending their Comprehensive Plans, Zoning Laws or other local laws and codes. With access to a compendium of county-wide information, local communities can avoid "re-inventing the wheel" and can take advantage of the work effort of other communities.

The questionnaire will be sent to all EMC members following the meeting for our review and comments at the next meeting. The goal is to finalize the questionnaire and agree upon a timeline for the EMC members to complete it for their town.

**GIS Tools:** Kathy Schneider and Ed Van Nostrand, along with Patrice Perry from the County Planning Department attended a meeting with Neil Currey from Dutchess County Cooperative Extension on Dutchess County's use of GIS for planning and development and the various applications that can be

used with GIS. Arc Explorer was an on-line computer program that can also be used for this purpose, although it has a more limited use. Kathy and Ed plan to further study the possible uses of the tools that they learned about and will provide additional feedback to the EMC at the next meeting.

**CAC Letter:** Ed Simonsen reported that he will send out a draft letter to the EMC members for their review in support of forming Conservation Advisory Council's in the various towns.

**NYSEG Power Line Expansion:** NYSEG is currently planning on expanding their power lines across five towns in the county. According to reports, some towns/individuals are considering legal action. A public meeting will be held in the near future.

**State requirements for training of PB and ZBA members:** There was some discussion as to whether we wanted to encourage enforcement of this across towns, but most members thought that this should be left up to the towns to enforce. There is a planned June 22 SEQRA basic course that will be offered by the county for all town ZBA and Planning Boards.

#### **New Business**

The Council discussed the idea of attending a future Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Committee as a way to better connect with the Board of Supervisors and get feedback from them. It was decided that this may be appropriate later in the year as we move forward on the questionnaire and other projects.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. Next meeting will be May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Minutes prepared by:  
Katy Cashen, Claverack