

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
25 OCTOBER 2010**

PRESENT:

Ed Simonsen, Chairman, Kinderhook
Karen Mort, Ghent
Michael O'Hara, City of Hudson
Robert Kessler, Hillsdale
Dan Marcus, Stockport
John Adams, Canaan
John Dax, New Lebanon
Kate Cashen, Claverack
Jamie Purinton, Ancram
Louise Bliss-Keneally, Greenport
Kathy Schneider, Stuyvesant
Scott Stackpole, Taghkanic
Frances Szasz, Germantown

REGRETS:

Melissa Sorman, Gallatin
Dean Vander Schaaff, Livingston
Deirdre Henderson, Chatham

STAFF:

Roland R. Vosburgh, Principal Planner

ABSENT:

Harvey Weber, Copake

VACANCIES:

Town of Austerlitz
Town of Clermont

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ed Simonsen called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and noted that a quorum to conduct official business was present (13 out of 19 voting members).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dan Marcus made a motion to approve the draft September EMC minutes as written and seconded by Bob Kessler. Vote: All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Simonsen announced that Commissioner Ken Flood would be able to attend the EMC meeting schedule for Monday, 15 November 2010. The possibility of Nan Stolzenburg attending a special meeting on Monday, 29 November 2010 to discuss her experience working with Columbia County towns on comprehensive planning and environmental issues is still not resolved. Kate Cashen said she hoped to resolve this with Ms. Stolzenburg tomorrow. Chairman

Simonsen explained that these two speakers will be of assistance for the EMC in deciding how to proceed with the results of the review of town comprehensive plans.

Chairman Simonsen noted that two towns (Austerlitz and Clermont) are without EMC representatives. Frances Szasz was reappointed by the BOS at their October meeting to a two year term.

He thanked Kate Cashen for circulating the update on the NYSDEC outdoor wood boiler regulations which were presented to the State Environmental Review Board today for action. There was a short discussion about the provisions of the proposed state regulations and whether there were any statistics as to how many OWBs existed in NYS and of those, how many were used on farms. He stated that the biodiversity talk by Gretchen Stevens at the Copake Town Hall on 9/30/10 went very well. He reported attending the Greenway Council and Conservancy meeting in Hyde Park last week and heard a presentation on scenic byways.

Chairman Simonsen reminded members of upcoming meetings including storm water management, the NYSACC/NYSAEMC annual environment conference at Thayer Hotel, West Point, and the CAC workshop which the EMC is co-sponsoring with the Columbia Land Conservancy to be held at the Columbia Greene Community College on 1/31/11.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) ***EMC Speaker Series***: Kathy Schneider reported that she provided open dates for the Stuyvesant Town Hall (February 2011) to Deirdre Henderson but had not heard from her. Roland Vosburgh interjected that he had received an email from Ms. Henderson that she would not be able to attend this meeting, she had received the possible dates open, but had not yet confirmed any of these with the NYSDEC climate smart program staff. Bob Kessler reported that Ned Depew had given a very informative talk on home energy conservation to the Hillsdale environmental committee and might be a good speaker for the EMC to sponsor at a future public meeting. John Adams recommended that the EMC compile a list of topics to address in the speaker series, agree on the list, and then identify people to invite to speak so that the EMC does not need to have revisit the topic at every monthly EMC meeting. John Adams agreed to draft a list of speaker topics and asked for suggestions from members. Kate Cashen advised that the EMC reach out to other organizations to coordinate or co-sponsor these speaker series. Bob Kessler recently viewed the film "Sea Change" and Fran Martino offered to set up a screening for the EMC if there was interest. Michael O'Hara suggested a matrix showing speaker topic, speaker, co-sponsor/s.
- 2) ***Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc***: Frances Szasz reported reviewing material on this proposed direct current (DC) power line project (from Canada to NYC) which she and Roland Vosburgh had discussed recently. She expressed that this project was a serious

change (burial in the Hudson River) and there could be safety concerns. With almost 30 miles of shoreline on the Hudson River, she thought that Columbia County had considerable exposure from the project. John Dax explained that DC transmission was pretty safe and the long distance power loss is less than with alternating current. Also he added that this project must go through both state and federal regulatory review and approval. In NYS, an interveners' fund has been distributed to major environmental interveners including Scenic Hudson and the Riverkeeper. Roland Vosburgh explained that he had provided Ms. Szasz with printed information about this project because she lacks email and reminded the EMC that several months ago, he emailed the links for both the US Department of Energy website for this project and also the applicant's website to all EMC members. He also sent similar information to all riverfront municipalities (six towns and City of Hudson) in Columbia County with the recommendation that they sign up for email notifications about the project.

- 3) ***Stuyvesant Source Water Protection Study***: Kathy Schneider reported that Steve Winkley would be presenting the results of the Stuyvesant study on Wednesday, 27 October 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. Kate Cashen reported that Steve Winkley will be working on a similar study for the Town of Claverack.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) ***EMC Meetings for the rest of 2010***: Chairman Simonsen announced that the rescheduled November meeting for 11/15/10 is finalized and that Commissioner Ken Flood will attend to respond to EMC questions. The possibility of an 11/29/10 meeting with Nan Stolzenburg is yet to be resolved. No EMC member present indicated any problem with either of these two meeting dates in November. The consensus was that the December EMC meeting would be cancelled.
- 2) ***EMC 2010 Report/Summary***: Chairman Simonsen announced that a short summary of the work and accomplishments of the EMC for 2010 would be drafted.
- 3) ***Lafarge Cement Plant***: Roland Vosburgh reported having attended the Lafarge Cement Co. open house held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall on 9/16/10 and distributed a packet of informational flyers about the cement plant modernization project at their Ravenna site to each member.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by:

Roland R. Vosburgh, Principal Planner