

April 13, 2022 ECC meeting

Attending:

Tom Konrad, ECC chair
Alan Newman, ECC member
Lisa Giannco, Resident
Stuart Leigh, Resident
Ben Eckstein, SHV
Melissa Evert
Olivia Fleming, ECC member
Siddhartha Lama

March minutes postponed

Review

Tom talked to the Marbletown Board about STRETCH to zero; zeroing out all fossil fuels in new construction, which could bring the town money from NYSERDA. However, the Board currently has too much to do and was not enthusiastic about the idea. Next step: Watered down plan to get people to use a heat pump instead of air conditioning.

Outreach for pledge campaign

MOMA is most likely to get 10 people to sign up for the pledge and earn a free charger install.

The meeting conversation evolved to how people see the pledge campaign; what feedback they are giving.

Parette felt that one had to be well along the steps in order to take the pledge. It felt too much all or nothing.

People had problems with the word “pledge”. They assumed it came with a huge price tag

Should the ECC be quiet for a while or keep going?. Soften the language? Make it more a planning campaign? Emphasize what people have done?

It was decided to survey pledge takers on how they are progressing. Send out a form that lays out various options (the plan). See if we can get people to look at the plan, then take the pledge. Need an online planning tool; rather than selling it as a pledge.

In order to start a planning tool, a web interface needed to be designed. It was decided to set up a meeting of a smaller group to design the planning tool.

Promote 5 heat pumps through the group purchase discount would get Marbletown \$5K.

Another idea is to approach relators and ask them to discuss with buyers on ways to save money and go green. Could we partner with the Building Department and get them to hand out green information?

Community Preservation Task Force

The town is exploring a real estate transfer tax that goes into a conservation fund. Hoping to be on ballot in November. Looking at other Towns' plans. As part of the project, hope to create layers of GIS information and then use a scoring to determine which areas are best to preserve. Review of land use controls.

The preservation project will get feedback from a public survey on the Marbletown website (which was distributed to ECC members and friends).

The tax can't exceed 2% of the portion of the sale above the county median. In June or July, a plan will be presented to the town. The Town Board will appoint a separate board that will make recommendations on how to spend the money from the transfer tax. Town board gets final vote on any spending plan.

Ashokan Release Working Group

Stuart Leigh provided an overview of the work being done by the Ulster County Ashokan Release Working Group.

Of recent interest is the DEP's plan to shut down the Delaware Water Tunnel for repairs for several months. A new section of the tunnel that runs under the Hudson River will be connected, bypassing an older tunnel section that is leaking. This means that water that water normally held in a reservoir will flow freely into the Rondout Creek. It also means that the Ashokan Reservoir will be held at full capacity to compensate for the drinking water lost during the repairs. How that affects the Esopus is not clear. DEP claims that it shouldn't affect downstream residents.

Announcement of events.

Science on Screen at the Rosendale Theatre will present *A Birder's Guide to Everything* followed by two biologists—one from Vassar and the other from Bard—answering questions from the audience. The event is on April 23.

Rochester ECC is sponsoring a Riverkeeper Sweep at the Kerhonkson Bridge on May 7.

Adjourn 8:13 pm

