

February 9, 2022 ECC meeting

Attending:

Tom Konrad, ECC chair
Alan Newman, ECC member
Lisa Giannco, Resident
Doug Adams, ECC member
Jim Hoover, Resident
Henry Moynahan Rich, ECC member
Ben Eckstein, SHV
Daisy Foote, Town Board Member
Olivia Fleming, ECC member

January minutes postponed

Review of 100% Pledge campaign/EV charger video/yard signs/Charger Video

One of the presentations was a bit scary, but the rest were fine. 2 people were interested in EV installations. One is too complicated, and the other was cost prohibitive because it requires trenching. So, no one is vying for the EV install currently.

Tom is presenting to Rondout Valley Permaculture group about EV's, and will see if there is any interest in installations. Signups for 100% Renewable are still trickling in.

Another issue: If there are 5 installs or energy audits through the group purchase program in Marbletown, the Town can get \$5000 from the state. So, it is worth promoting.

Eliminating single use plastic at Rondout HS

Siddhartha and Kathleen were absent because of internet outages following the ice storm.

Henry pointed out that restaurants and possibly the school can lease a commercial dishwasher: <https://www.ecologicsolutions.com> Sustainable dishwasher. Normal commercial dishwashers can be leased from Ecolab <https://www.ecolab.com/> Alan passed this information along to Kathleen and Siddhartha.

Planning for future online events

Group Purchase Update; other activities

No update on group

Josh Cartwright [spelling?] of Sustaine.com approached Ben about proprietary software for small businesses that helps them use renewable energy and use energy efficiently. The company has a deal with Central Hudson. Even better, it is no cost to businesses. Their service

makes sense out of all the various programs available. Pass on to Rondout Valley Business Association, Ulster County and Better Business Bureau. County is trying to reignite a green business challenge. Ben will get back to Sustaine.

Association of Towns, which advises Town boards, has a service that helps residents understand electrical bills and makes sure that the billing is correct. Marbletown is looking into the service. This service can audit and interpret bills.

Opt-out solar

Opt-out solar halted by PSC. Regulatory issues have held it up.

DEC Water Monitoring Program/Ashokan EIS

Lots of submissions, still waiting to hear.

DEC has ordered NYC's DEP to revise the Ashokan Release EIS.

CEC grants

No update on car purchase. Daisy will check on what is happening.

New business

Discussion of potential new ECC members: Lisa and Paris are interested in joining. Paris will send in an application.

Opt-out solar should be coming this month. Not applicable to anyone who already has signed up for solar or has solar arrays.

Daisy: **NYSERDA has a new program to create building codes that outlaw fossil fuels.** Money is available to implement it and that could be used to persuade Board Members. STRETCH is still not up and running in Marbletown and another, new program could be a "heavy lift" for the Town Board. Marbletown is in good position for this new program. Some concerns: Building department must be happy with another new program. People like gas stoves and eliminating them would raise opposition. And the Town is interested in affordable housing, which also may cause push back to new codes.

Investment Committee: Can't mention properties, but good presentations to Town Board. To fund the purchase of green space, the Town can pass a Community Preservation Tax. Money is a tax on the purchase of new homes. New Paltz has implemented this tax. Could raise a lot of money.

Lisa Giannco is recommended unanimously for membership to ECC; her application will be forwarded to the Town Board.

Olivia asked: **Given the recent, widespread outages across Marbletown, could Central Hudson underwrite a Tesla Power Wall?** Green Mountain Energy in VT does it. Would need approval of

PSC. Needs to be part of the state plan. Recommended calling State Senator Michelle Hinchey. Board is also collecting information on the NY state plans to deal with this issue; best place to push the idea.

Adjourn 8:13 pm