

## February 10, 2021 Minutes

### Attending:

Tom Konrad, ECC Chair  
Iris Bloom  
Olivia Fleming  
Doug Adams  
Alan Newman, Secretary  
Tim Hunt, Marbletown Board Representative  
Melissa Everett, SHV  
Ben Eckstein, SHV  
Dave Conover, SHV  
Jill Obrig, Guest  
Amy Moses, Guest  
Stuart Leigh, Guest

January meeting minutes postponed. (Later approved online)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> online 100% Renewable Meeting:

Our March 6 meeting will feature a discussion of Cornell Cooperative Extension Energy Navigators, heat pump water heater, financial assistance program and available resources. The details of the program will be hammered out in separate meetings (Tom to set up a Doodle for meeting times). The meeting will be recorded and shared. There will also be a chance for members to take the 10 steps pledge. Tim expressed reluctance to take the pledge, which suggested that a stronger case needs to be made.

Ben is working on a flyer for the meeting. Melissa to write Thank You notes to attendees at the past two online meetings. Tom agreed to provide the language for the poster.

### Final program (approved in March):

10:40-11:am Pre meeting to do any final coordination

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11-11:05 5 min - **Tom/MC**: Greeting, overview, and introduction to energy navigators. (Mention polling, tell people they can ask questions in the Q&A, share if you have taken the pledge, if you need coaching.)

11:05-11:25 20 min - Energy navigators explain what they do, how they do it, and how they can help you insulate and seal your home *affordably*.

11:25-11:35 **Melissa** introduces and moderates the 10 minute Q & A: Begin by asking if folks have questions inspired by navigators. Introduce Tom.

11:35-11:40                    5 min - 10 Cost-effective Steps/Pledge overview with a focus on how insulation is the most important to do now (**Tom** - with pics, introduce Melissa.)

11:40-11:55                    **Melissa** either moderates 10 min. Q/A if < 20 participants, or introduces 10 minute breakout sessions.

11:50-11:55                    **Tom**: 5 Wrap-up

11:55-12:00(musical bridge (**Iris**) and sharing via chat if folks are committing to taking the pledge and want personal help from navigators. If so they should post their email address.

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**Overtime** - unstructured Q and A

### **Clean Energy Community Leadership Program**

The program is point based with opportunities for \$10,000, \$25,000 and \$70,000 grants. Marbletown currently ranks second with 3200 total points among “small/medium communities” (which covers populations up to 39,999 and includes cities as large as Kingston and Poughkeepsie). Marbletown would need 1800 more points to qualify for one of four \$70,000 grants. Easiest path is to approve STRETCH code, which gets 1200 points; opt out community solar, which is 500 points; advanced benchmarking, 200 points; and/or demonstrate clean heating and cooling, 500 points. More expensive is buying 100% renewable energy for the Town for 500 points. Without the STRETCH code, paths to 1800 are difficult and more time consuming; possibly too long to qualify for one of the four first-come-first served grants. Easy points to obtain, which don’t reach 1800 points, include purchasing a used EV for the highway department and installing EV chargers (200 points) and LED lighting (200 points) in Grady Park in High Falls. Tim will work with the Board on approving the STRETCH code.

### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Ashokan Reservoir Releases to Esopus**

Alan gave a summary of the releases. NY DEP runs Ashokan Reservoir. DEC responsible for Esopus and surrounds. Water from the upper Esopus enters the west basin... clean water moves to the East basin. Water sent to Westchester County from the East Basin where it is treated if necessary.

DEP tries to send as clean water as possible to Westchester.

To maintain the clean water, the DEP occasionally flushes sediment-laden water into lower Esopus. Since 2013, releases have been operated under a consent decree from the DEC, which required an Environmental Impact Statement. The work order for the EIS was finalized in 2017 and came out in late 2020.

#### **3 types of releases**

- Community releases to maintain the creek.
- Spill mitigation to prevent flooding
- Operational releases to remove sediment (these are the problematic ones)

Significant concern about the sediment releases. Comment period on the EIS now open and is expected that many groups will raise questions, especially about the decision to continue to release sediment and not find a better way to avoid the releases.

**ECC recommendations to the Investment and Preservation Committee.**

Olivia is the ECC's delegate to the committee. The committee has identified another of areas to target for spending money: biological diversity; connectivity; preservation of water resources; carbon sequestration; preserving native species; and preserving view shed. However, there is no ranking of issues and Daisy has requested feedback from the ECC.

ECC members voted for preserving water and preserving habitat (with the understanding that habitat also protects biological diversity and native species).

**School project**

Jill described a series of projects for middle school that used "trash". It helps student be more aware of where garbage goes.

**Amy is going to discuss** Marbletown's 100% Renewable Effort with the Unitarian Church in Bath, ME.

Adjourn: 9:30 pm