

## Marbletown ECC Minutes, 7-9pm 11/11/2020

**Attendees:** Tom Konrad, Iris Marie Bloom, Amy Moses, Toni Brink, Melissa Everett, Alan Newman, Jill OBrig, Ben Eckstein, Dave Conover, Eric Stewart + one unidentified mystery person for a few minutes at start of meeting.

### **GROUP PURCHASE WRAP-UP** (Ben Eckstein of Sustainable Hudson Valley)

There was some improvement in sign-ups over the previous period, but number was lower than hoped/expected due to COVID and election.

Positive word of mouth & community outreach seem to be key in getting folks to sign up. Kudos to Iris and John Wackman on this point.

Actions:

Melissa is to come up with updated plan for 2021.

Iris is requesting any additional feedback.

### **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION PLEDGE EVENT** (to be co-hosted by SHV)

Currently this is scheduled for Saturday, 1/9/21 via Zoom; however there was also a discussion of doing a possible live event with a fire pit and hot cocoa/cider at MCC.

The focus of the presentation will be on businesses taking the pledge. To better accommodate this, the January ECC meeting will be held on 1/6/21.

Actions:

- Tom to put together "ask" materials.
- ECC to flesh out idea of prize(s) for pledge takers
- Melissa & Ben to create flier/promotional materials
- ECC to further discuss advantages/disadvantages of possible live event
- Tom to speak with Michael Tumminia of Ridgewell Gym as possible participant
- Amy to reach out to architects
- Iris to outline program/event

### **TRAILS**

Initial group to include members of TB, Carl Pezinno & Jill McLean of Trails Committee, members of ECC who wish to participate. Once a game plan is established we will reach out to Al Roberts of SUNY Ulster. Then, ideally, we would like to schedule a public forum. Possible outreach to Elizabeth Ryan of Stone Ridge Orchard also discussed.

Actions:

Eric to set up zoom meeting of concerned parties for ASAP

### **STRETCH CODE**

It was decided to apply stretch code + electrification to new construction and not renovations in order to pass TB

Propane only to be allowed in new construction for back up generators and cooking stoves.

Action:

Tom to discuss with Daisy Foote on path forward. She wanted to hold off on further Stretch Code action until January.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Offer to join extended to Toni, Jill OBrig.

Eric to approach Laura Finestone.

## **BENNETT SOLAR FARM**

ECC wrote a letter in support of the project, text of the letter below.

The Planning Board gave their approval to the project

From: Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission

To: Town of Marbletown Planning Board

Re: Environmental Impact of Bennett / Greathead Solar proposal

Date: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**The Marbletown ECC has considered the net environmental impact of the Bennett Solar Farm. The Committee concludes that the project is a large net positive for the environment, both here in Marbletown, Ulster County and beyond.**

Factors that we have considered in reaching this conclusion:

1. The reduction of greenhouse gas and other pollution from nearby fossil-fuel power plants and the associated reduction in climate change. This is a net plus for the health of Marbletown residents and surrounding communities;
2. The impact on pollinators and other wildlife: the owners have agreed not to cut any milkweed (exclusive Monarch butterfly host plant) between June 1st and November 1st, and the solar company will plant native pollinator plants in every solar field, which benefits birds, as well;
3. Protecting water: the solar panels will cause no harm to groundwater, and the access road construction will carefully minimize any impact on surface water with one small stream crossing;
4. The resulting production from the project helps achieve the Town's 100% renewable energy goal.

Sincerely,

The Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission:

*Doug Adams, Iris Marie Bloom, Tom Konrad, Amy Moses, Alan Newman*

Marbletown Board Liaison to ECC:

*Eric Stewart*