

MINUTES

Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission January 28, 2016

Time: 7:00pm – 9:02pm

Location: Rondout Municipal Center
1915 Lucas Ave.
Cottkill, NY 12419

Members Present: [X] Tom Konrad (Chair)
[X] Doug Adams (Town Board Representative)
[] Paul DiGrazia
[] Eric Stewart
[X] Iris Marie Bloom
[X] Jason Zimmerman
[X] Margot Becker (via Skype)

In Attendance: Kellianne Havranek, Rosendale CCE
Susan Gillespie, Rosendale CCE
Caroline Berninger, Pastor in Charge, Rondout Valley UMC

7:03p

Introductions

Ms. Havranek and Ms. Gillespie attended to inquire about collaboration. Ms. Berninger recently wrote to the Town Board requesting a streetlight at the intersection of Rt. 209 and Schoonmaker Lane. The Rondout Valley United Methodist Church is set back from that intersection. Prior to the meeting, the ECC let Ms. Berninger know that the letter would be added to the agenda.

7:07p

December Minutes

December minutes were approved and will be posted on the Marbletown website.

7:09p

Collaboration

Rosendale's Commission for Conservation of the Environment is currently choosing agenda items for 2016. They wanted to find out whether the two commissions could join forces on any projects.

Discussion started with concerns regarding Pilgrim Pipeline. Since this is Iris' area of expertise, she gave her contact information.

Jason said he would send RCCE a link to his stored files related to ECC and CSC. The ECC will also make sure one of its members is present at the next RCCE meeting on the third Thursday in February.

7:31p

Retail Checkout Bags

The ECC has been in a holding pattern regarding advancement of this project.

Tom supplied a brief background and explained what has already been accomplished. His next goal is to meet with merchants to get their input on how to proceed. Goals for the meeting would include getting feedback on:

1. Ban vs. fee and the amount of a fee, if applicable
2. Enforcement methods
3. Reusable bag design

Members discussed the possibility of asking Ulster County to pass a similar resolution. It was agreed that Marbletown would need to pass theirs first.

7:44p

Waste Reduction Workshop

Margot will get some ideas together. Tom suggested some simple ways to plan and hold a seminar.

7:51p

Catskill Aqueduct Repair and Rehabilitation

Jason suggested getting Board approval to conduct water tests near the aqueduct leak sites. These results would serve as baseline measurements in case future testing is necessary, once the DEP finishes its chlorination work.

After getting member feedback, Jason said he would gather more information and present it to the ECC next month. He will attempt to:

1. Find at least one lab and get a rough price estimate
2. Identify appropriate test sites
3. Determine the correct protocol for testing
4. Find out when the DEIS will be released, since that will contain the information necessary to proceed.

8:12p

Streetlights: Update

Tom gave members an update on where the ECC stands on LED conversion. This includes future reimbursement from Central Hudson for misbilled lights, last week's repair of malfunctioning lights, and the addition of an LED streetlight across from the Hasbrouck House.

Jason talked about where the town stands on getting feedback from the fire chiefs and taxpayers regarding lights that could be reduced or removed.

Members talked with Ms. Berninger about her request for a streetlight at 209 and Schoonmaker.

Next steps include:

1. Gathering comments from taxpayers once those letters are sent out.
2. Communicating with fire chiefs to confirm there are no public safety concerns.
3. Decide on a supplier for any future LED streetlights.

The only set deadline for any future work is related to taxpayers; they will have one month to respond once the letters are sent out.

8:29p

Streetlights: Rt 209 in Stone Ridge

Tom offered ideas on ways to include solar lighting along the sidewalk in downtown Stone Ridge. He will be gathering additional information, including how much it might cost to add public Wi-Fi during installation.

8:38p

Pilgrim Pipelines

Iris explained elements of the proposed pipelines project that are concerning to local municipalities. One is having the NYS Thruway Authority act as co-lead agency.

Iris suggested having Marbletown weigh in during the current comment period. She said she would send the town suggested wording. She also indicated that ECC members and the town could weigh in during the future scoping process.

8:48p

CSC

Jason said Marbletown now has 18 certification points. The latest five points came from a walking and biking project linked to the town's continued work on the O&W Rail Trail.

8:54p

Recruiting

The ECC is seeking new members. The commission is in communication with the Town Clerk's office regarding the sign at the former town hall. It might be possible to put the recruiting notice back up once the town no longer needs to post the address of the Municipal Center.

9:02p

Adjourn

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting. Iris seconded.

The Marbletown ECC is an advisory commission that meets at 7p on the last Thursday of every month. Meetings are held at the Rondout Municipal Center and are open to the public. Please consult the calendar at <http://www.marbletown.net> for confirmed meeting dates and times.