

MINUTES

Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission July 28, 2016

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Rondout Municipal Center
1925 Lucas Ave.
Cottkill, NY 12419

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

In Attendance: Peter Lamerson, former ECC member

Note: June minutes were approved prior to the meeting via email and will be posted on the Marbletown website.

7:10p

CSC

Jason received data for the Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory, but will need more information due to the level of detail required to adequately fill out the CSC spreadsheet.

Iris asked about the possibility of having interns help with CSC projects. Jason said he talked with SUNY New Paltz last summer but nothing became of it. He will now have to determine if he has enough free time to devote to the internship program before contacting SUNY again.

7:23p

Pollinator Garden

The garden is visible from the conference room where the ECC meets, so Eric was able to easily point out the included plants.

Discussion shifted to whether the town would be able to pay for signage. Eric will contact Mike Warren. Members decided a photo of the garden with any new signage would be a helpful addition to the planned press release, so PR will be added to the agenda for next month.

7:28p

Eco Lawn

Peter explained eco lawns and pitched the idea of adding one to the Municipal Center, possibly in the area of the Pollinator Garden.

Considerations of adding such a lawn would include cost, whether the seeds are all native, the correct mowing height and any possible liability from bees that would be in the grass.

Eric will gather details.

7:40p

Plastic Straw Resolution

Iris shared an article with the group from The New Paltz Times, which published details of the town's "Ask First" Resolution. She requested assistance with spreading the word to restaurants. Tom suggested drafting a short letter, which the town could mail out.

Iris will draft the letter. Tom will look into pricing of reusable straws, which could be used as promotional giveaways.

Since the resolution could lead to CSC points, Iris forwarded Jason two relevant documents for the project application.

8:00p

Streetlights

Tom gave an update, and showed a map of the streetlights that will require public comment before possible removal.

Members voted unanimously to suggest removal of all the lights due for public comment.

Discussion shifted to the complaints the ECC had received about drivers speeding on Leggett Road. Members agreed this topic was beyond the purview of the Commission.

8:29p

Composting

Doug said that there are still details to work out regarding composting at the Transfer Station. Prior to the meeting, Jason sent members a composting brochure via email. The group decided that a section of the brochure could be used to promote the composting service once those details are finalized.

Jason looked into several different aspects of composting, including what home composters the town could possibly sell at the Transfer Station, as well as the price of electric bear fences. He showed the group several draft PowerPoint presentations, which could be converted to PDF and

used as supplemental information on the town's website. He will keep working on the documents.

9:01p

Plastic Bag Ban

Tom's update on plastic bags included the recent decision by the Town Board not to accept the ECC's latest draft resolution. Retailers had expressed concern that the addition of a paper bag fee might drive customers to Kingston.

Members decided to drop the paper bag fee. The next draft resolution will contain a plastic bag ban and a non-binding request that Ulster County pass a plastic bag ban plus a 10-cent fee on all checkout bags.

9:08p

Transfer Station

In an effort to decrease MSW and increase reuse, Tom suggested looking into having the Marbletown Transfer Station become a pickup site for the ReStore in Kingston.

Eric suggested that members visit the Rochester Transfer Station for additional ideas.

9:18p

Creek Week

Eric notified the group that this year's Creek Week is scheduled for September 10-24.

9:20p

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.