

# **MINUTES      Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission March 28, 2016**

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:pm

**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  
[ X ] Margot Becker

**In Attendance:** Stuart Greenfield, Marbletown resident  
Laura Finestone, Chair, Rochester ECC  
Karin Reynolds, potential member

**Watershed Summit** Laura talked about last year’s inaugural Summit, and the events that followed.

Discussion of food and water served at this year’s Summit focused on making sure none of it was blatantly environmentally unfriendly.

At the Summit, Tom will talk about the role of ECCs. Iris will talk about Pilgrim Pipelines, their potential impacts, and what can be done. At next month’s ECC meeting, members will discuss the Summit and make sure any related documentation has been distributed.

**Trash Fest** Margot talked about what elements might be included for the June event.

The group discussed how and when to publicize Trash Fest, as well as what could be promoted during the event itself.

Margot asked for assistance on any elements that might be of interest to members, and will report back next month on her progress. She also asked the group what the ECC could do to keep the community involved after the event is over. Members will bring ideas next month.

**Retail Plastic Checkout Bags** It was previously decided to hold an educational event before taking anything further to the Town Board.

Tom suggested a screening of the documentary Bag It, and explained the possible costs involved. The group discussed logistics and other educational options.

**Polystyrene  
(Styrofoam) Ban**

This wasn't on the agenda, but was brought up during the plastic bag discussion. Some members asked when the Ulster County ban takes effect and who would enforce it. [The ban should go into effect in May.]

The ECC will discuss this next month.

**Collaboration**

Jason is working on a draft proposal that could jump-start collaboration between area transfer stations.

Tom will bring up both the Bag-It screening and the workshop to encourage reusable-bag use as potential points of collaboration at the Watershed Summit.

**Pollinator  
Garden**

Eric passed out detailed plans for the pollinator garden. Doug will arrange to have sod removed from areas Eric marks out in the lawn in front of the Municipal Center. Eric will prepare the soil.

On Saturday May 7, ECC members will come to plant seeds and the donated plants in prepared beds. Other volunteers are welcome. Eric said it would be helpful if the additional volunteers had some level of gardening experience. He estimated that the planting would take 1-2 hours, depending on how many people show up.

**High Falls Green  
Up Days**

The High Falls Civic Association will be organizing a road and invasive plant cleanup. It will be held Saturday, April 23 from 9a - 1p. and Saturday, April 30 from 9a - 4p. The HFCA website is:  
<http://highfallscivic.org/>

Stuart pointed out that people get a single bag for roadside trash cleanup, which impedes recycling. Tom will connect him with the organizer of the event.

**Pilgrim  
Pipelines**

Iris reported that the campaign has had some success in challenging the proposed role of the Thruway Authority as lead agency, as well as delaying the environmental review. The Town of New Paltz has been recognized in the legal process, bringing legal status to the resolutions opposing the Thruway Authority in a lead or co-lead agency role, which were passed by most of the towns along the route.

Iris stressed the importance of getting as many people as possible to submit comments once the environmental review begins, as a way to highlight potential

problems such as impacts on biodiversity. Marbletown can submit comments as a municipality.

**Recruitment** Karin Reynolds will consider joining the ECC, but Thursdays will not work for her. If she decides she wants to join, the ECC will consider a different day/time for regular meetings before she makes her final decision.

**Adjourn** February minutes were not discussed, so the final version will need to be approved via email.

*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.*