

MINUTES

Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission August 25, 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
[] Eric Stewart
[X] Iris Marie Bloom
[X] Jason Zimmerman
[] Margot Becker

7:14p **July Minutes**
Draft minutes for July were approved. Jason will send the Final to the Town Clerk.

7:15p **Timekeeping**
Tom offered several ways that members can keep to the planned agenda time while still feeling free to contribute on any subject. The group agreed to add a timekeeping element, as well as to make it a policy that anyone dominating a conversation cede the floor to others who have been quiet.

Throughout the meeting, all members in attendance helped keep track of time and were able to work through the listed agenda items ahead of schedule.

7:23p **Streetlights**
The ECC is already prepared for the public hearing in September regarding possible streetlight removal, so only one new item needed attention.

Tom explained Central Hudson's policy on replacing streetlights with LEDs during routine maintenance when there is no Blanket Street Light Authority Order. If the town wants LEDs of a specific intensity, the Board will need to pass a resolution.

The ECC's suggested resolution is for Central Hudson to replace all Marbletown street lights with 39W LEDs except: 1) Lights at the intersection of two state or county routes and 2) Lights at fire departments which have bulbs greater than 10,000 lumens. These will be replaced with 82W LEDs. Tom will write the draft.

7:40p

Plastic Retail Checkout Bags

The latest goals for this effort are:

1. Engage retailers to determine their preferences.
2. Draft Marbletown's legislation so it can be a model for any larger Ulster County effort.
3. Take proactive steps to avoid a future lawsuit from the plastic industry.

Doug gave a presentation to the Board earlier this month. He is helping to write a letter to retailers, which will be sent from the town.

Doug also mentioned the importance of citing accurate details in spoken-word testimony. Tom has had a sourced FAQ available, which has already been used at public meetings.

7:56p

Pollinator Garden

With Eric not in attendance, Tom informed members that the town has approved the purchase of a sign that matches others at the Municipal Center. He also mentioned that the town wants to expand the garden, and the group talked about possibilities.

Members worked through wording options for the sign. Iris will send Eric the ideas.

8:12p

Eco Lawn

Tom passed along Eric's research of Eco Lawns. Members decided against suggesting that the town add one to the Municipal Center.

8:14p

Plastic Straws

Members decided not to request that the town buy reusable straws as giveaways to food establishments supporting Marbletown's recent resolution on reducing plastic straw use.

Tom sent Iris and Doug the latest version of the educational/promotional material. Distribution ideas will continue once the draft is finalized.

8:21p

CSC

Jason announced that the town has received another point through its continuing effort on LED conversion and streetlight reduction. The town has now earned 19 points toward CSC certification.

Jason also showed members a draft brochure which clarifies what the town can recycle and what it collects for reuse. He will work with Doug on a final version that the town can post on the ECC page.

The town has recently included food composting to the Transfer Station. Doug is planning to draft a letter that can go out to permit holders. Creating an educational document will be necessary when applying for the related CSC points. Jason said he will wait for the finalized letter so he can start the document with wording already approved by the town.

8:41p

Tongore Park

Tom informed the group that Riverkeeper has reported repeated high Enterococcus counts on the Esopus at Tongore Park. However, the NYS Department of Health has also been testing, often on the same day, and their Enterococcus results at the park are consistently 20-30x lower, and within acceptable levels. The town's Youth and Rec Dept. believes a Riverkeeper volunteer (or volunteers) might not be following proper sampling procedures.

The town is working to determine why the Riverkeeper and DOH results are not consistent. The ECC does not need to assist. The beach is scheduled to close for the season tomorrow (August 26).

8:47p

September Meeting

Tom will be away next month, so Jason will handle the agenda.

8:50p

Pilgrim Pipelines

Iris gave the group an update on the future positive declaration and scoping, as well as the scheduled meetings and demonstrations. She reminded members that individuals do not need to live along the proposed pipeline route to offer comments.

8:55p

Adjourn

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jason 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.