

MINUTES

Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission February 25, 2016

Time: 7:00pm – 9:27pm

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

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

In Attendance: Stuart Greenfield, Marbletown resident

7:03p

January Minutes

January's final minutes required several changes. Jason will email an edited version for member approval before sending the PDF to the Town Clerk.

7:06p

Streetlight Update

The town has accepted Central Hudson's findings regarding billing errors. CH will now calculate the exact refund amount.

Tom attended a webinar related to the Mid-Hudson Streetlight Consortium to gather additional information on LED purchasing. ECC members discussed what option might be best for the town.

Letters have not been sent out to taxpayers near some streetlights that have the potential for being reduced or removed. Jason will send Tom an updated list, and Tom will gather GPS coordinates for those lights. The goal is to have the ECC use these coordinates to assist in sending out the letters.

Jason has asked Central Hudson to estimate the cost of adding a utility pole. He will use this information when the time comes to offer suggestions about the streetlight that has been requested at Rt 209 and Schoonmaker Lane.

7:25p

Watershed Summit

This meeting will be held on March 29th from 6p-9p at the Municipal Center. Most of the organization is being handled by Accord and Riverkeeper.

Tom mentioned this might be a gathering where the ECC could seek out new members. He requested that everyone look at the summit agenda and suggest additional items, if necessary.

7:35p

Intermittent Woodland Pools

Stuart would like to hold a presentation. The group discussed possible dates, times and locations.

Doug said he would help Stuart find an appropriate venue.

7:46p

TrashFest

Margot announced that she has received funding from Arts Mid-Hudson. The focus of the event is artists making art out of trash, and musicians performing music out of instruments made from trash. The goals will be to elevate trash as a community issue, and create an event where anyone can participate.

The League of Women Voters will be sponsoring TrashFest. ECC members voted to become a second sponsor.

A majority of the discussion centered on elements to include, possible artists/musicians to invite and potential sites that could support the event. Margot is deciding on a date, and will supply additional details at the next meeting.

8:16p

Retail Checkout Bags

Tom suggested finding a way to have the Town Board host public comment about a future resolution. His suggested strawman proposal is a one-penny fee on all checkout bags with no enforcement, and an included request for additional resolutions outside town borders.

Doug will look into the logistics of this type of public comment, and Tom will further develop the strawman proposal.

8:55p

Marbletown Website

Stuart acknowledged the ECC's efforts to keep their portion of the town website up to date. He mentioned that some of the biodiversity information is outdated.

Tom will find out what links need to be changed.

9:00p

Cypress Creek Renewables

Jason attended the Rosendale CCE meeting last week, and found out about concerns regarding the company's solar farm contracts. Cornell Cooperative Extension has been assisting landowners in Sullivan County.

Jason suggested making the town aware of Cypress Creek in case any town residents are contacted and seek advice. He will create a one-sheet.

9:10p

Community Solar

Tom mentioned pay-as-you-go plans and the savings involved. Some companies are expecting to have subscriptions available by the end of the year.

9:15p

Pollinator Garden

With spring approaching, Eric inquired about assistance in getting the garden together at the Municipal Center. Doug said he would look into borrowing a tractor. Several members in attendance said they would help with the initial labor.

Earth Day could be an option for a community event, which would involve planting. Eric will work out the details and report back next month.

9:27p

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.