

Minutes, ECC Meeting October 25th 2018

Present: Tom Konrad, Iris Bloom, Amy Moses, Evelyn Lafontaine, Doug Adams & Eric Stewart
Guests: Melissa Everett, Tim Guinee, Rich La Salvia

Meeting opened with a brief opening discussion of a proposed Passive House Workshop. Tom offered to assist with this project but there was no follow thru from those who suggested it. As a result, MECC will not be participating.

Direct Mail Pieces

1. CCA Fact Sheet—Discussion of pie charts. Eventual design approved. The decision was made to not include our pieces with other Town business (namely from Hist. Preservation Comm.) in a November to town citizens. The CCA will go into effect at end of year, so mailing should go out sometime in early December or very early January to avoid holiday craziness. Town has no problems with doing mailing at our convenience.
2. ECC Fact Sheet
 1. Should request feedback from citizens, membership info should be included
 2. Should mention the plastic bag recently passed by Ulster County as well as the ban instituted in Europe. Iris to write bag ban piece. Iris also suggested Town should ban the same plastic items listed in European Union's ban including cups, lids, stirrers, cotton swab sticks, cutlery, clam-shell containers, chip bags, etc. Idea to pursue this at Town level was tabled for time being, but all agreed this was a worthy goal.
3. Fact sheet should also be posted on FB and Twitter
4. Should mention EV chargers—existing sites at MCC & RMC as well as gym, Spring Farm @ Mohonk. Mohonk Preserve had initially intended to only install an EV charger at the new trailhead in New Paltz, but due to ECC intervention and the offer of \$1000 of cost share from Marbletown (informally agreed to by Supervisor Rich Parete) has agreed to add on one that the Spring Farm Trailhead as well.

100% Renewable Workshop Recap

Everyone agreed the first of our workshops was a huge success and that the presenters all did an excellent job. We then discussed possible next steps:

- Heat Smart program
- 2nd Solarize Campaign
- It was suggested that we start writing letters to editors (Thanks, Amy for your efforts on this).
- Discussion of venues and formats for future workshops/meet & greets. Melissa noted importance of specifically targeting certain groups and “thought leaders” in future mailings and events thru personal invitations.
- Hydro
- Building Codes: These could include the following:

1. Banning oil and propane furnaces in new construction (rather unlikely)
2. Creating codes that encourage/incentivize energy efficiency
3. Codes that require that new construction require EV ready electrical hookups
4. Codes that require new construction be solar ready
 - Melissa to create white paper
 - Create radio announcements and possibly arrange interviews.
 - Amy, Melissa and Iris to meet to strategize these plans and create a 3-month and 1-year set of goals
 - Tom plans to write article on GreenTechMedia.com discussing Marbletown's efforts. Query has been enthusiastically accepted by GTM.

There was then a general discussion about various projects underway around town including Alan Hariri's plan for a solar farm as well as developments at the soon-to-open Ridgewell Gym in Stone Ridge , owned by Michael Tuminia. Renovations at the gym include Tesla charging stations (3, already installed), LED retrofit, heat pump and his desire to clear trees and add install ground-mounted solar panels at the rear of property (which may or may not happen). Also, there was a discussion of the capacities of the Hurley and High Falls electrical substations.

As part of this discussion, Rich La Salvia brought up the big capital improvement plan proposed and soon to be voted upon by Rondout Central School District. It was suggested that Tom speak with Rich Parete and arrange a meeting with the superintendent to discuss the plan and whether it includes heat pumps, solar panels, LED lighting, etc.

UPDATE: The new superintendent Dr. Morgan attended the Town Board meeting the following at which Tom gave an update on the commission's efforts. At that meeting Tom spoke with Dr. Morgan about the situation and volunteered to serve as an energy consultant on the project. While it is too late to change the framing of the vote to better enable energy efficiency measures, the Superintendent seems interested in having Tom involved in the project.

EV Charger Update:

1. Rockcliff House to install chargers in High Falls. Specifics and date of installation unknown. Unfortunately, this project is beset by various issues with Planning Board
2. Stone Ridge Library—Installation of EV chargers to be funded thru \$1400 donation from Sun Common (formerly Hudson Solar) as part of our earlier Solarize Rondout Valley Campaign. ECC/Tom to advise library as to desired type of charger.
3. Mohonk to install EV charger(s) at Spring Creek trail head.

MCC Retrofit update: Unfortunately, town has been unable to find a project manager/general contractor with the necessary time and expertise for this project.

Tim Guinee gave a brief presentation and recommended that the ECC endorse supervisor Parete signing on to the Climate Mayors Association agreement. The ECC agreed.

Eric brought up his idea for the ECC to honor an “Eco Hero” (this name is not set in stone) perhaps every other month at a Town Board meeting. The idea was to recognize and present a certificate to a local business that has made efforts towards reducing waste and adopting green business practices. This could be an excellent and relatively easy way to both reach out to the community and get good press coverage with relatively little effort on our part. The group agreed this was a good idea, but that details should be worked out. Eric will take this on as a project and hopes to award the first of these certificates in January.

RESIGNATION: All members present voted to accept Clare Fleming’s resignation in order to maintain a quorum.

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance Logo: Eric asked the ECC to help the Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance with the startup cost for a logo design. The ECC voted to pay for up to \$250 for logo design for the RWCA, with Amy, Iris, and Doug voting in favor and Tom abstaining.

