

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: April 13, 2020; 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 666 934 808
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Al Bruno, Peter Criswell, Laura Petit and Mary
Wawro
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Tracey Bartels; David Gordon, Legislative
Minority Counsel; Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright; Tim Rose, Executive Director of
the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Adam Doan, Director of Ulster County
Soil & Water;

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:16 pm and lead the Pledge
of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **To Approve the Minutes of March 2, 2020**
Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit & Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Update – see attached transcript.

Resolutions for the April 28 , 2020 Session of the Legislature

**Resolution No. 94 - Opposing A New Power Plant Facility At The Former Danskammer
Energy Site In Newburgh (Orange County) New York**

Resolution Summary: This is a memorializing resolution opposing a fossil fuel powered facility
in Newburgh, NY

Motion No. 2: **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 94**
Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to amend Resolution No. 94 as presented by the sponsor.** (text of the amendment attached)

Motion By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit & Wawro

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Amended**

Motion No. 4: **Motion to postpone Resolution No. 94 with the consent of the sponsor.**

Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Resolution No. 131 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chairman to execute an agreement for up to \$91,500 with Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 131**
Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Old and New Business

Suspension of BYO Bag legislation during pandemic
Proposed Changes to Composting Law due to pandemic
Draft Solid Waste Management Plan
Zero Waste efforts and composting at Ulster County Fair

Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved:

Amendments To Resolution No. 94

Resolution No. 94 March 17, 2020

Opposing A New Power Plant Facility At The Former Danskammer Energy Site In Newburgh (Orange County) New York

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairwoman Greene and Legislators Bruno, Criswell, Petit, and Wawro)

Legislators Tracey A. Bartels and Jonathan Heppner and Legislators Archer, Cahill, Criswell, Delaune, Donaldson, Gavaris, Greene, Petit, Uchitelle and Walter offer the following:

WHEREAS, Danskammer Energy, LLC “Danskammer”, seeks a permit through the State of New York's Article 10 of the Public Service Law Power Plant Siting Process to build and operate a new gas-fired power plant with a potential generating capacity of 525-575 megawatts on the shores of the Hudson River in the Town of Newburgh, referred to as the Facility Repowering Project; and

WHEREAS, the current power plant located at the site operates only when electric generation demand reaches a peak so that it operates about 5%-10% of the year to meet peak power demand; and

WHEREAS, the new power plant will operate year-round as a base load facility, and

WHEREAS, operating continuously will bring at least a 10-fold increase in emissions of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds and a dramatic increase in local air pollution in the City of Newburgh and the entire region; and

WHEREAS, children, the elderly and anyone with a pre-existing health condition affecting their lungs, such as asthma or emphysema, are especially vulnerable to the contaminants in these air emissions; and

WHEREAS, this pollution will fuel the growing climate crisis, contrary to the interests of Ulster County and in contradiction to the State’s Energy Plan and Clean Energy Standard of 50% renewable energy generation to be available on the electric grid by 2030, which Governor Cuomo more recently increased to 100% by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the new facility will use an air cooled-condensing system which will eliminate use of the Hudson River’s water for cooling; and

WHEREAS, the new power plant will use natural gas as its primary fuel (with provisions to use ultra-low sulfur diesel [ULSD] for up to 30 days as a back-up fuel); and

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Resolution No. 94 March 17, 2020

Opposing A New Power Plant Facility At The Former Danskammer Energy Site In Newburgh (Orange County) New York

WHEREAS, much of the natural gas is likely to come from fracking, which the Ulster County Legislature has been on record opposing, ~~and~~;

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- Deleted: a product
- Deleted: as its primary fuel
- Deleted: with provisions to use ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) for up to 30 days as a back-up fuel; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2011, the Ulster County Legislature adopted into law a prohibition to lease any county-owned lands, including but not limited to County park lands, for high-volume, chemical slickwater hydraulic-fracturing to extract natural gas; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2012, the Ulster County Legislature adopted the “Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Prohibition Act” declaring the placement of brine on any road or property of the County of Ulster as unlawful; and

WHEREAS, to protect our health, air and water quality, and the climate, New York State has proposed a permanent ban on fracking; and

WHEREAS, the major component of natural gas is methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, fugitive methane from fracking, pipelines, compressor stations and other transport may substantially contribute to global warming; and

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WHEREAS, increased consumption of methane for production of power further binds New York State and the entire country to a climate degrading source of energy production for decades to come; and

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WHEREAS, the site proposed for construction of the new Danskammer facility flooded badly in Superstorm Sandy, and its operation would require storage of aqueous ammonia and diesel in a highly flood prone area, threatening toxic exposures of the Hudson River and its organic life, including plants, fish, and water birds and animals; and

WHEREAS, the current proposals do not require taking down the existing power plant on the Hudson River, and the new facility would be taller than the existing plant, adding a menacing industrial visual impact on the riverfront; and

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WHEREAS, the viewshed for the new facility will extend for more than 11 miles along the Hudson River and include numerous public parks and recreational areas on the River, the riverfront and inland; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York recently passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) which established programs, obligations and targets

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to meet zero emissions by 2050, 70% renewable sources by 2030 and the electrical sector to be carbon free by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the proposed gas-fired power plant will contribute to the state's contravention of these CLCPA goals; and

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WHEREAS, large scale generation of electricity are currently possible through wind, solar, geothermal, and hydro, and can be coupled with battery storage, providing greater climate and financial benefit, as well as the prospect of more and better green jobs in the renewable energy sector; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County supports the initiatives proposed in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and will take an active role in supporting renewable energy projects in Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County supports the retraining and just transition of workers in industries involved in the generation of energy from fossil fuel to non-polluting industries; and

WHEREAS, the policy of Ulster County is to reduce the footprint of industry on the Hudson River waterfront, particularly for those industries for which a presence on the River is not necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has received public comments from residents expressing concerns and opposition to the project; and,

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WHEREAS, the City of Beacon, the City of Newburgh, the Village of Cold Spring, the Town of Phillipstown, the Town of Peekskill, the City of Kingston, the Town of Rosendale, the Village of New Paltz, and the Village of Saugerties have passed resolutions opposing the construction of the Danskammer power plant; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, based upon all information received about the project, concerns of the host town and surrounding communities, and the testimony provided by Ulster County residents, the Ulster County Legislature hereby opposes the construction of a new fossil-fuel powered Danskammer power plant; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges Governor Cuomo and the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment convened under Article 10 of the State Public Service Law to consider the concerns stated herein

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Resolution No. 94 March 17, 2020

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when considering Danskammer's proposal to build and operate a larger, new facility; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to the [New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment](#), Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly and Senate Environmental Conservation Committee Chairs, all Ulster County elected Assemblymembers and Senators,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Energy and Environment on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

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Field Code Changed

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County Soil & Water;

Greene: It is 6, 6:16 on March, that's April 13, 2020. At this point, I'd like to call the meeting to order and Fawn, can you, we take the roll, please.

Tantillo: Certainly. Mary Wawro.

Wawro: Here.

Tantillo: Al Bruno.

Bruno: Here.

Tantillo: Peter Criswell.

Criswell: Virtually here.

Tantillo: Laura Petit.

Greene: Laura's on mute.

Tantillo: I see Laura.

Petit: Is that better?

Tantillo: There we go.

Petit: OK. Thank you. I'm here.

Tantillo: You have 5 present, zero absent, so you have a quorum.

Greene: OK. And with that, I'm sure we have a flag somewhere in our house. But I think, especially appropriate to continue to say, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tantillo: Oh. Hang on. Here you go.

Greene: Wonderful, so...

Group: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Greene: I think we have a little bit of a delay and I'm sorry about that. We'll get through this. And I want to ask if people have had a chance to read the minutes of the last meeting.

Bruno: I have.

Greene: And if not, I'm willing to put it off because you know it's been a very crazy month, but... I see some nods to everyone.

All right, so I would ask for a motion to approve the minutes of... I'm trying to look at two things at once here. Can you put that in your motion, if you would, Peter? I thought I saw you.

Bruno: I'll make a motion to approve

Greene: Okay.

Criswell: I'll second that

Greene: Alright. Motion by Legislator Bruno. Second by Legislator Criswell. All in favor?

Group: Aye

Greene: Okay. Now I'll be looking at...I have the agenda pulled up. I'm on two different phones here so the next thing, I'll be looking for while I... Thank you. Shared screen. Cool. Cool beans.

I'd like to ask Tim Rose from the UCRRA (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency) to please do an update. I think there is some news if rumor has it, Tim.

Rose: What's that? What are you referring to, Manna?

Greene: Did you get some comments back from DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation)?

Rose: Oh, yeah, very minor. They were more questions than comments. The board looked at them and there really wasn't anything controversial. Just more questions and clarification type of stuff. So, they looked at it. They didn't have anything to add or delete and so it was sent off to DEC. So, again it was just clarification. They have been involved in the process all along, which is a good thing, so there wasn't any major comments. We sent it back to DEC today and hopefully they will turn it around quickly and the board can officially accept it and we can send that to the Legislature.

Greene: OK, and there has been a parallel process to create a zero-waste plan. And..Are you guys OK with hearing me because sometimes my phone is funny...OK , good.

(Unintelligible)

I'm going to... I'll be able to hear better if I use my picture and I moved from my phone. I am hearing impaired and I'm using two devices for this so bear with me, please.

Tim, there was a training that some of us took, including Legislator Petit and myself, some of the staff and the board of the agency and a couple others. We started to put together an outline for a zero -waste plan and then the coronavirus pandemic spread, and I think it put everybody into...it disrupted the pattern.

But I also know that the Recycling Oversight Committee is working on a zero action plan. And I just want to be sure that as we move forward... and that came out of a resolution that we passed for the zero-waste policy, but I want to be sure that those efforts are coordinated and well underway. As we move forward. We have to give

everyone a little chance to adjust to a new lifestyle and new technology. But, Legislator Petit, would you like to add to my comments while we have Tim Rose her?

Petit: Sure, can you hear me OK? My screen is doing all kinds of crazy things. But anyway,

So yes. Several years ago, a group of us wrote a zero-waste action plan for New Paltz and of course, a large portion of that was written with input from the public. So, what we've done is we've taken essentially the soft waste components materials parts which I believe is Section 3 of the draft 2020 Solid Waste Management Plan and it is getting broken down into several components. So, we're looking at writing a stand-alone zero-waste document.

One of our committee members on the Recycling Oversight Committee would like to do a survey, just to set benchmarks, but we just don't have the time or the funding or the personnel staff to do that. So, we will be moving forward. We will set up a meeting some point this month via Zoom or hopefully the quarantine will be lifted so we can actually get together in a room.

I mean, I can send out the very draft outline, you know, if anybody who is interested, we certainly, welcome input and ideas. Feel free to write sections of it. So, this is going to be a real collaborative effort. And we do need to find a way to include the public in this. I think that's the only way we're going to get a real successful stand-alone document.

Greene: So, Tim...

Rose: Yes.

Greene: Just want to be sure that we're all in communication, this the work that the agency is doing, the zero-waste planning, the process that came out of Zero-Waste USA and the work that the Recycling Oversight Committee is doing. If we blend all of that together, I think it's going to be a real model document. So, I just wanted to be sure to include that as we're discussing that report.

Rose: OK, but this is stand-alone though from the Solid Waste plan, right? Because...

Petit: Yes.

Rose: OK, because if it's part of the Solid Waste Management Plan it us back to ground, back to zero again because now it has to go back to DEC for a re-review.

That's going to put us, that's going to put us back 6 months. So, I just want to make sure that what you are doing is stand-alone from the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Petit: Stand-alone. Right, right. A completely separate way of handling, you know, each component of solid waste stream. We certainly wouldn't want to set back the Solid Waste Management Plan at all.

Did they ever approve the one from 2012?

Rose: They gave us comments, well, it was submitted in December of 2012, we got it, no, actually it was earlier than that, it was December of 2011. We got comments 6 years and 4 months later. And then we decided to write a whole new plan, at that point,

Greene: Which they were fine with. And that's the document that has gone to them, and they submitted comments to the agency. That's where it stands right now.

Rose: Yeah. it's really, it's virtually done, because it was good because we engaged them from the beginning, so they have been involved all along so there wasn't any major comments. The plan that was just submitted. It was more for clarity type questions. It wasn't anything policy driven. It was more for clarity. So, I think they should be able to turn this around very quickly, hopefully, and get to the board. The board can officially adopt it at next board meeting which in April. Maybe not April but at least May. And then we can, the board can send it off to the Legislature for ratification and then it's done, and we can start working on it.

Greene: So, how were the comments and questions, this is later on the agenda. Actually, No. This is a good time to bring it up. The Solid Waste Planning Commission and individuals but in particular that Commission was created to keep the channels of communication between the Agency and the Legislature open so that the final document had feedback from the Agency, from the Legislature.

There were some very specific comments and maybe at this point it is more clear how those were addressed?

Rose: You should have that. That was sent to you, I don't know, two months ago, something like that.

Greene: You mean the comments from Cornerstone.

Rose: Yeah and the way the board and Cornerstone, we inserted the public comments into the plan, and how we address those comments, and that was sent back to the DEC, which you should have a copy of that. And they sent it back with just some clarification questions.
And that's what was resubmitted sent back just today.

Greene: OK.

Rose: So, you should have the meat of it.

Greene: Any other question for Tim Rose from any of the members of Energy and Environment. I kind of wanted to go through a little bit of background, particularly for newer members that are just coming on.

Bartels: Since we have Tim on the line, I just wanted to ask if he could maybe update us about some of the challenges or successes, just what he's seeing in this environment of quarantine in relation to the agency and solid waste and recycling and the transfer stations, etc.

Rose: Sure. As you know, we are considered an essential service. So, we often need to work, other than any office staff, they are deemed non-essential in the office. So, we have most of the office staff working out of the house.

All have operations, as you know, is at work. We have to move garbage. We have to be able to process the recycling.

There hasn't been any disruption in service. Except we stopped taking e-waste for the time being. People must come into the office and we want to avoid in-person contact. This idea that you stop taking in-person contact, so we stopped taking e-waste for the time being.

We did put it on our website and the few that haven't seen our website that do show up. I go out and talk with them. Everybody understands this is unprecedented time. So, people are just holding on to TVs in the basement or whatever the case may be.

All of our employees know we spent \$700 today and got even more masks, but the employees are wearing masks. Fortunately, the vast majority of our employees don't have person to person contact, even amongst themselves, they are pretty spread out. We have drivers in all our trucks that operate by themselves. We have employees on loaders and excavators that are by themselves.

One group for people who do have contact with the public are the scale house operators, because of payment.

We stopped taking cash, it's credit card accounts, the vast majority of our, our revenue stream is done through accounts, because they're large haulers, but we did put Plexiglas up in front of the window. It gives some sort of barrier, and they do wear gloves and wear masks.

In New Paltz, the New Paltz transfer station, every year we always closed down for the first quarter of the year and closed on Saturdays. We don't take any trash on Saturdays because It's so slow that it wasn't worth keeping it open. So, as long as I have been director, for 10 years, and prior to me, it's always been close the first quarter of the year.

We decided to extend that this year for the first time because of the COVID-19. So, we remain closed on Saturdays which has not been an issue at all.

Let me think...other than that we had a drill, a practice board meeting today, if you want to call it that, to make sure all the board members were going to have access, because the board meeting on the 27th is going to be through WebEx. We're gonna have a link on our website, that the public can log into. I think for public comment what we're planning on doing, and we've actually got this from the Red Hook school district, for their public comment. They're asking for public comments to be submitted ahead of time. And then they read it aloud which seems to be a good way to go. So, as we discussed it today, that our practice meeting with a fake agenda, and a fake resolution, just to make sure everybody can see it and was familiar with it. 16:54 And we worked out the kinks today so I think we're ready for the regular important. But at this time we're going to hold public comments, which I think that's pretty much it.

Bartels: And I just asked a follow up Tim? Are you in terms of volume Are you seeing about the same volume as historical or how is that looking

Rose: Volume is, isn't, it's up a little bit. What is interesting is the transactions have gone up. So, in this environment the business is closer that's a big part of the waste stream, so, the business closed down that's a that's a lot of volume that you would lose. But everybody's homes so the residential volume went up. And what I'm surmising from this, the number of transactions that are coming across the scale have increased, which means it's a lot of small loads. So, I think what's happening is people are home from work and they are cleaning out their basements. Honestly, you know,

we're cleaning out the garages or whatever they're doing cleaning up around the house. But, but, yeah, we lost the commercial, but we've increased in residential.

Greene: Any it changed in recycling?

Rose: I never noticed a change in recycling. No, no. yeah, anyway, but there might be a little bit of a lag, because we've been recycling, the vast majority of our recycling. Well, nearly, nearly all of it comes from the towns, and then the of Kingston, too. But, you know, towns, depending on town, we're talking about, say a commingled container, they only get picked up once a month. Sometimes more often, sometimes might be every week or every couple weeks. But I haven't noticed, I haven't noticed that big a difference in recycling right now.

I can, I can imagine it's probably because so much of it is residential, that I would expect that, actually I would expect the recycling to go up. Just because people are home.

Greene: One thing I'm noticing is how much, you know, with the resilience program that the County Executive has created and, you know, the voluntary actions on the part of restaurants and so forth, for those meals that are being delivered to people. It looks to me like collectively that's a lot of clam shells and pie tins, you know, aluminum pie tins, so, I don't know that they'll ever make it into the recycling stream but I think it is going to impact the mainstream as long as we're caught in this pandemic.

Rose: I can tell you, over the past couple of weeks, we did notice our food. Food waste drop in volume, because the restaurants are closed and the schools. That we did notice for our composting program.

I will tell you something interesting Delaware County has a MRF (Materials Recycling Facility). And I received an email because I'm on a statewide Association and Sue McIntyre is part of that, so, she sent an email out. There were emails going back and forth about what we're doing in each one of our respective facilities in regard to COVID-19 and employees and so forth. Delaware County took the stance that they closed down their MRF, because they were they were, because so little is known about the COVID-19 and the transmission, that they're afraid of handling the plastics and doing the sorting with the employees. So they're not they're not running their MRF right now. They're gonna hold on to it as long as they can. And then I guess once they reach capacity, they can't hold on longer take any more recycling the products and then divert it to the waste stream.

Petit: If I could just add to that, you know, to town level, and I spoke to a couple of the other towns to see if they were keeping the same hours, etc. We're worried about the quality. We are not picking through the material to make sure that you get the best quality like we were, you know. And folks who still throwing everything in. I had a email battle back and forth with somebody who insists that you know the folks at the transfer station, take out the toothbrushes and the Starbucks cups, etcetera, which, you know, at some point, we're just going to start charging them for it. The redemption centers have been closed, so we're not pulling out, and we stopped anyway because you know again, we're uncertain about how it's passed along, and we don't want to expose ourselves any more than we have to.

The other thing is the scrap metal yards are closed. So, are you stockpiling your scrap metal?

Rose: You know, actually were going to, I just went up to Sims in the Port of Albany. They're open. They're accepting metal. We have, we just got two brand new dump trailers, and believe it or not we ordered months ago, not expecting this of course now just so happens that it looks like we're probably going to start self-hauling our scrap metal up to the Port of Albany.

Petit: Do you charge for your scrap?

Rose: Well, if it comes in, yes, we charge it as regular garbage, and we pull it out. We're not in the scrap business. We're not a scrap metal business. So, we don't, we don't, it's not somewhere where we do, you know, we don't put it off to the side someplace when it comes in. Most the time it comes in like in house clean outs or whatever they clear estates, you know, that sort of thing. And they dump it on the floor they're getting rid of it they don't want it. And then my guys will pull it out, we'll divert it from the waste. And we hold on to it, so, that's the only way we really get scrap. I think towns are a lot more scrapped we do,

Petit: We do, but it's a last resort, I mean we're getting pretty full. And you know West Kingston's told us that we could pack down the container, but we're going to get to the point where we really can't so we may have to start a scrap metal pile but I was kind of hoping we could send them. Folks won't want to pay for it.

Olive, I mean. On a personal note, I use the Town of Olive transfer station because I live in Boiseville, and the Town of Olive has a scrap, scrap pile. By the way. Speaking of which, you know, the Town of Olive has a punch card system so you buy a card. The 10 punches on it. And it's \$5 a bag, and they stopped because of the in-person contact, they stopped punching the cards, they're just allowing people to come in and

bring their garbage in without any charge because they don't want their employees exposed. But that was their decision.

Greene: Okay, thank you, Tim.

Rose: Your welcome.

Greene: If there are no other questions. I would like to move on to the resolution.

And the resolutions for upcoming April sessions start with Resolution Number 94. Opposing... and this has been on our docket for a while... Opposing, a new power plant facility at the former Danskammer energy site in Newburgh. And I see Legislator Bartels. Would you like to start by speaking to this and we'll see if there are any other questions?

Criswell: Can I move it to discussion?

Greene: Yes, please. Thank you. You need a second.

Bartels: Can you hear me. Yes.

Petit: I'll second.

Greene: Okay, thank you. Thank you so I moved on. Sorry.

Bartels: So, I circulated. The changes the marked-up copy which I think everyone has and is in the packet, and I basically went back over my notes from the last meeting and tried to incorporate everyone's concerned. So, I don't know if everyone's had a chance to read it or if you want to go through it on change by change or how you want to do it if anyone wants to give feedback.

Bruno: Tracey, I went through it. And first of all I want to say thank you for all the hard work you put in it. I know a lot of them, I was putting your thorns in your side, so to speak ,about this one, and I apologize but, you know...

Bartels: It's better because of it.

Bruno: You did a great job. And I'm really impressed with what you did with it. It reads, I read it a couple of times over just as flowing, and I think you did a good job.

Bartels: Thank you.

Criswell: I a second that sentiment I thought it was very clear. I think it fleshed out some things that needed to be fleshed out a little bit and gave some specifics, so I think it looks much better to. So thank you.

Bartels: Okay, great. Thank you.

Now, if there aren't any other specifics, I know that the Chair of the Legislature has asked that we postpone movement on it, which I spoke to the Chair of this committee about. And I'm, since it isn't time sensitive which is my understanding, I'm okay with postponing it particularly since our May meeting will be coming on quickly since our April meetings pushed, pushed back a week, but I'm open to that conversation as well.

Criswell: I personally think it's important to get public feedback on this it's a huge issue. And one of the reasons we're doing it, I think, is to show the public that we have a stance on this. So, to do this kind of, not behind closed doors, but without public input, I just think is against the point of why we're doing it, so...

Bruno: I understand what you're saying, Pete, and I agree with you. However. I'm not sure how your emails have been going but my email box, and my message box, blowing up ever since the last full sessions, we had it's just been incredible the feedback that I've gotten to support this resolution. And that's why I'll be a yes. I'll straight up and I'll tell you about right here I'll be a "yes" on it regardless of how I feel personally, but I represent all about this for that resolution.

Criswell: I hear what you're saying. And I'm happy to vote "yes" on this myself. And I could go either way if you convince me that we should do this today right now, I'm happy to do it.

Bruno: Oh, as far as postponing, if Tracey's comfortable postponing it and, and Manna, you're comfortable postponing it, it's gonna be a big impact on it. I'm okay with it. I mean...

Greene: Let me also I see Legislator Wawro, I mean, a Petit, raised her hand and I would like to hear from Legislator Wawro.

Petit: I'm trying to get a cool background on like Mary has.

Bruno: You have, are you on an iPad?

Petit: Yeah, I can't do it. Huh.

Bruno: Well you can't on an iPad. You can't on a regular computer.

Petit: No, but I didn't raise my hand I'm just playing with it.

Greene: Mary, you are on mute. I think you have to unmute yourself.

Bruno: Mary, can you hear us? Bring your cursor you go Here you go.

Greene: Go ahead.

Wawro: You hear me now can hear you. Okay. No, I'm, I'm okay with the new changes. Can you hear me. Okay. Sorry.

Greene: You know, I, I'm in a tricky situation, because Legislator Bartels said we were asked not to. I think Legislator, Chairman Donaldson has us to only act on those things that are time sensitive tonight. And, you know, just till we get back into a regular pattern. And so, you know, it's really up to Legislator Bartels and the will of the committee. But I, you know, from my perspective, especially when, when he called me, it was in the middle of all hell has broken loose, excuse my French. But it made sense to me, to just pause until everybody got their bearings. So, let me just check for the, the will of Legislator Bartels and the will of the committee.

Criswell: Can I just say a quick statement. So, Chairman Donaldson did actually call out this, and the, the bed tax issue as two issues that were going to be on hold for, so he specifically said these two issues. And that was, that's a public statement so I think we should take that into consideration.

Greene: Legislator Bartels?

Bruno: You're muted Tracy

Greene: You're on mute.

Bartels: I know. I just had to get to it.

So, Yeah, I mean, I think that when we do move this, we're going to have a lot of public comment. And maybe, if, if it isn't time sensitive, which I've been assured that it's not that critically time sensitive, I mean, I would like to weigh in sooner than later. But if we can afford the less than a month, I'd be willing, but I think we have to

anticipate that there's going to be a lot of, as, as Legislator Bruno said, there's going to be a lot of input on this. And there is a lot of support among our communities. For this. There's also going to be critics, and we've heard some of them, particularly as it relates to labor for the jobs, which is why we put in the language that speaks to just transition. But, you know, I have mixed feelings about it because I very much do want to, I want to be heard on it. And, and I feel very much like Legislator Bruno, no matter where this shakes out, I'm very clear on where I stand on this and I thank you all for your input because I really mean it. When I say that your criticism helped to make it better and more specific and more succinct and more pointed, and that's makes it a better piece of legislation, memorializing though and maybe so. Um, if, if my understanding is correct that we can afford the essentially three weeks. I'm okay. I'm okay with it if that's what the committee wants to do with the understanding that there will be a lot of public input when we do move on it.

Bruno: I have one quick, one other...

Bruno: My question is, does anybody have any information, where Orange County is right now as far as their processes postponing it. Is it really going to make a difference or is it not going to make a difference. I mean based on where they are in their process.

Greene: I can speak to that, Al. I am following this pretty closely and basically, it's an article 10 process. It is a very slow process. And they went through a stipulation phase and submitted a lot of information, and basically, the siting board sent back questions because between the time that information was developed and now the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was passed. And that raise some questions because that happen. You know, it doesn't, The CLCPA doesn't apply retroactively, but this is an active application. So, they, they were asked to answer some additional questions, and make some modifications. Given the fact that we're in the midst of a pandemic, that is likely to slow things down even more. And as much as I would like to see us act, I don't think three weeks is going to make a lot of difference. And it also gives us a chance to gather more information and get more questions answered or ask our fellow legislators if they have any questions that remain unanswered so that we can make an informed decision. But in terms of, it's not like there's anywhere near a deadline.

Bruno: OK, that much easier to postpone this.

Greene: Okay, was that a motion?

Bruno: I could. No, I was just making a comment.

Greene: Okay.

Petit: Before we vote on this, what is the feedback from the unions. I mean, you mentioned that there that that's why that the language had been added. But do you think we'll get a lot of pushback from them because originally, they didn't seem supportive of this because they were concerned about union jobs?

Greene: I don't know how to silence that I'm really sorry about the noise in the background. It will stop.

I, you know, I think there will be but I, I want to also let you know that there is a keen awareness, especially amongst the laborers union that a just transition needs to occur. That is, they need to prepare their workers for jobs that are more like what happened with glide path in Town of Ulster where they switch from a peaker plant to a battery storage facility. Battery storage facilities don't require a lot of people but installing the infrastructure the solar or other renewable energy infrastructure and also installing the storage infrastructure is work for laborers, and in some cases, that's gonna require some retraining. I also know that IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) has taken the lead, um, and years ago started to train their electricians, but the laborers union is in communication with Workforce Development Institute, and in the not too distant future, there's going to be a webinar or forum, featuring some really good examples.

I may have mentioned that in Holyoke Massachusetts. They had a large coal plant. And that has been transition to a large solar system with battery backup. So, it's not, it doesn't generate nearly as much electricity. But it generates it cleanly and those same workers went from, you know, being part of a climate change problem to being part of a climate change solution.

So, I think, I know for sure I've spoken to Todd Diorio, that they see the handwriting on the wall. I think their concern is for their current workers and that's a justifiable concern. But we're in the middle of a global climate crisis, and that's why workforce development and just transition, are so critical at this time. And they're not ignoring that they it, it's very definitely in their planning, I don't know the degree. I'm trying to actually find out the degree to which that training is actually taking place.

But anyway. I don't want to, I'm just trying to fill you in on what I know about this. And I am in communication with the laborer's union. They remain in favor. And I don't doubt that there will be pressure, but I think that the resolution itself addresses all the questions that I've heard in two years of working on this. So, that's kind of where we stand at this point. Do we have any other questions? All right, go ahead, Al.

Bruno: At this point. after reading, you know, the changes that she made through it. I guess I can move forward to make a motion that we accept her amendments, accept the motion amendments to it. And then as far as postponing it to another time if necessary, that, that would be a separate motion, correct?

Greene: Perfect. I really like that.

Bruno: I'll make a motion that we accept her amendments.

Greene: Is there a second?

Criswell: I'll second that.

Greene: All right, on the amendments. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Greene: Anyone, anyone opposed?

All right, the amendments that have that are redlined in the version that we're looking at, for Resolution Number, 94 have been accepted. And Fawn, does that mean that we can have a clean version, up on the internet, by the next meeting.

All right, and then. Tracy, you just say you want to postpone or does the committee need to make a resolution to ,to table it.

Bartels: I think the committee needs them not to table, but to postpone to the next meeting would make a resolution to postpone to the next meeting with my consent.

Greene: Thank you.

Bartels: That's the appropriate way. And thank you, thank you all for your feedback and, and support.

Criswell: So, with the consent of the author, I move we postpone this until our next meeting.

Bruno: I'll second.

Greene: All in favor?

Group: Aye. Aye.

Bartels: Thank you very much.

Greene: Okay, great. Thank you.

All right. And now we're on to, and Adam, thank you for your patience. Onto Resolution Number 131 -Authorizing the Chair of the Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District for the 2020 appropriations.

And I know you sent some very good documentation. And I guess we should move for purposes of discussion and then here

Criswell: I'll move for discussion.

Bruno: I'll second.

Greene: Okay. And Adam you're on if you want to. Well, let me ask if people have any specific questions.

Criswell: I just wanted to say that I appreciate you going back and clarifying, you know, beefing ,beefing it up so that so that it just answered what we were asking so thank you for doing that and if you want to just sort of give us the rundown that'd be great.

Greene: You want to give us a quick summary. Oh wait, we have to we have a. We have a blinking.

Criswell: Of course, when it's game time technology fails.

Doan: Can you hear me.

Greene: Yes.

Doan: So, yeah, so, what I did was go back and I think the letter probably it's pretty self-explanatory or the memo that I attached with it, that this is a document that's been intended for our New York State Committee, but it's ultimately an annual plan at work so it doesn't change, whoever the reader is. The only question I really have for the committee is, is it too much information would you prefer a distilled version. If, if not ,what I recommend as is in the latter would probably be to have a novel that kind

of summarizes and distills it down to a couple of pages as opposed to that 20 some pages, and then the only other thing that I would add is that document the annual plan of work was created by my predecessor and I'll probably be updating it just based on the usability of it. I think I could make some improvements and make it a little bit more accessible. I would probably do that going forward, regardless of how the committee chooses to proceed in terms of what documentation you'd like but it should be a good summary of the work that we intend to do under the annual plan work, So.

Greene: From my perspective, I don't want to make more work for you. If you need to create a summary for other purposes, we'd love to see it. And when you do an update, we'd really appreciate seeing that as well. But I think right now everybody is pulled in so many different directions that I'd be reluctant to make more work since you were so responsive to our requests.

Doan: I appreciate that.

Bruno: I think you're the short version that I saw that you had given us I think that that covered a lot of the questions that we had before. And yeah, without all the legal verbiage, we didn't need the government Great job. Thank you.

Doan: Appreciate that.

Greene: Okay, so, um, we've had our discussion. And it was moved for purposes of discussion, but we can just now go right to a vote on Resolution Number 131. If there are no other questions for Adam or amongst ourselves?

Okay. All in favor of Resolution Number 131, please indicate.

Group: Aye.

Greene: And is anyone opposed? The resolution carries. And thank you, thank you, Adam.

And, Fawn, if you would be so kind of to switch back to the rest of the agenda, and scroll down a little bit. Oh, that's it. That's fine. And that's, um, Any new business?

Bruno: Yeah, I got a, I got a question I guess let's come on to new business given the situation that we're all in with COVID-19. Maybe a sore subject Come on the bag ban, so to speak. I'm not sure whether this has to be put in a form of resolution or

moving forward but I know some of the local grocery stores are, they're. A they're not using the bags because of the potential contamination for the whole more reusable bags. And I get that, I understand that. If you do want to bring your own bag and you have to pack your own groceries. I mean like in Saugerties in Hannaford does it as well in Kingston. That being said, do we want to possibly. Consider, for nothing else removing the five cent charge. If they bag it in paper.
Just a question.

Petit: Can I can I, because I was at Hannaford. They're giving up the bags free plastic and paper, and they will not let you use your own bag, even if you're bagging.

Bruno: So let's don't forget, for sure they will probably let you bag your own bags that way. If you bought your own.

Greene: I think I also saw Legislator Bartels hand and then I'll be next on the stack.

Bartels: Thank you. My understanding is that the Governor has essentially suspended, all aspects of the bag ban. So, stores, at this moment, are free to provide, without the fee, some are, there's a whole wide range of what stores are doing, um, you know I was at Adams and they were still crediting five cents for the bag that I brought. But, um, but right now we're, we're preempted on everything, and the state says that the law is suspended temporarily, because of the COVID situation.

Bruno: My, my question was to suspend the law that we have as we know from the county, but possibly amended. The biggest gripe that I've heard from people is that five cents, you know.

Bartels: But, I mean, that's a matter of fact is that the state has suspended, we now to state law, until the state suspended so they don't have to the five cents,

Bruno: Going forward, we don't need to address that?

Bartels: We will, it seems that we will eventually have to address the five cents, but that'll be out once we get out the other side of this whole COVID thing right now the authority for the law lies with the state and the state has said that the whole law is suspended. So, this to your stores in your community don't have to charge the five cents. At the moment, yeah, so and there's gonna be no enforcement on it until, until

we come out the other side of this and the laws put back in place. I wish we will have to talk about some aspects of it.

Bruno: I appreciate it. Thanks for the info.

Bartels: Sure.

Greene: Okay. Um, so, for old business, a very similar issue that came up in the Climate Smart Committee and was raised by Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright and I asked Attorney Gordon, to look into Local Law Number Five, the solid waste, and the food waste law that diversion that we that we passed is scheduled to go into effect for the large generators, many of whom are already managing it, and some of whom are managing on site, and others managing with haulers and composting facilities. But for the new ones, that is scheduled to go into effect July 1. And they were wondering whether we needed a new law or whether the County Executive could use the existing waivers, and exemptions. And if I understand correctly, and...I believe I saw that Dave Gordon was on the line. But, that it's probably not advisable to use very focused waivers or exemptions that have, you know, vary, we went round and round on that and came up with what we felt was necessary. But there are other options regarding enforcement. The County Executive could just defer enforcement. Or, I believe, issue, some form of an Executive Order because of the emergency. Or, we could actually pass a law that amends, essentially, an amendment that differs that to September or October. Very hard to know how this is going to play out.

And, and remember there are only, I think in that category, 26 facilities, and probably at least a quarter of them are already participating. but I just wanted to get the sense of the committee, how we might want to address that.

Before we do, I just want to ask. Dave Gordon, if I created a correct from a legal perspective?

Bartels: He's turned into a microwave.

Greene: Ding!

Wright: And I just want to let you... Manna, can you hear me? This is Evelyn. I just wanted to let you know that I'm on the line I didn't have the zoom link, but I'm on the phone.

Greene: Evelyn, from your perspective, did I outline that. Did I say that, in a way that...

Wright: Yeah, absolutely. And I, I think if it's the preference that we just defer enforcement, we certainly can do that and keep this a lightweight measure. I think we can certainly do that. You know, Amanda and her team have been really the, the leaders of implementing the Project Resilience efforts, so, they are, you know, 95% at capacity, running that program right now, including Michelle. So, and I'm sure the, the businesses also don't have the bandwidth to think about developing new, for the ones that aren't composting already probably don't have the bandwidth, right now so you know we're happy to do this. However, however you want to handle it.

Greene: Essentially, they've been redeployed.

Wright: They have been redeployed and they are doing a fantastic job. I mean, they are just about the best logisticians we have on the county staff and they've been doing an incredible job.

Greene: Yes, please. Tracy, and then it's hard to see everybody's hands but go ahead.

Bartels: Okay, thank you. You know, I mean, I'm open to the discussion. It may not be something it's probably not gonna be something resolved here right now, but my, I tell you my instinct is that we amend the law to push everything out to later dates.

I think that I'm deferring, you know, allowing the law. To begin, but just not enforcing creates a kind of a confusing situation. The previous administration had us do that with plastic bags and we lived that beginning where people were like "Well, I don't really have to do it because there's going to be no enforcement" and I don't love the idea of having a law on the books that's a law, but everyone agrees "It's a law, but you don't really have to follow it because you're not going to be punished if you don't."

So, I mean, I think that given these extraordinary times it would just be cleaner. If we could come to a sense of what dates and push all, all of them out. Because there are several dates that, but, the first one hits first but then it gets to the next layer businesses in the next layer. So, I personally think that would be the cleanest and least complicated, and then these times not only do our people not have the bandwidth for enforcement, but, as Evelyn just said, the businesses, it's one more thing, I mean some of the biggest businesses aren't even technically operating, the schools, SUNY New Paltz is, is shut. So, I just, I think it'll be a better. It'll be a better rollout, it'll be

more understanding and more embracing of it. If, if we acknowledge the extraordinary situation we're in and we push it out a little bit.

Greene: And I did look at the calendar and it seems to me that if we decided to go that route. In May, we could set a public hearing in June, and, and then, Well, then we'd have to vote on it in July and it's supposed to roll out in July. In other words, if we're setting a public hearing. We would, yeah, it's going to be pretty tight. I, when I did the calculations before it looked like we could be ready in time for July, but, um,

Bartels: Manna. If I could just jump in, we could, I mean we don't normally have a public hearing on a caucus day and then vote on session day, but for something like this where you know the public would be, I think the public will be understanding of why we're doing this and if we got any crazy feedback on caucus day we could delay the vote, but again I think this is just, you know, these are these are extraordinary times.

Greene: So, hold the public hearing in June. If we were to pass a resolution in May, we would set the date for the public for the caucus in June, and then vote on it at the session in June, in time for it to take effect in July. How do other folks feel about that?

Bruno: I think that makes sense.

Greene: Okay, we just made a little more work for our staff, and, um, and our attorney or attorneys. But, um, I think the hard part, you know, the whereas is going to be very obvious, and the resolved is going to be obvious. I think the hard part is just to put it on a crystal ball and, and find an appropriate date. So why don't we all give that some thought, and

Bruno: We're not in a rush for this are we.

Greene: Well...

Bruno: Dave's going "Yes."

Criswell: Yeah, we have to we have to do this so that it aligns with the July, what was to be the July enforcement date. So, we have to make this all now jive to move it forward. Correct, David.

Gordon: Yeah. Can you guys hear me.

Greene: Yeah, and we can see you.

Gordon: Yeah. Oh, good thing. But do you want to? Um, yes, we got it, we should probably plan on doing something by July 1 but I would just point out that the only thing we can do in the legislature is a local law amending the code that the County Executive does have some tools to bridge us over. In other words, if we were to take just for this, just for the sake of argument, until August to get everything we wanted to do straight, whatever that might be, the County Executive on emergency basis could either just say, I know Tracy said that she didn't want to do this but, I mean, if he did and it happen for a week or two, that might be, you know, more acceptable than if it was generalized. Or you could do it under the, you know, he's got a state of emergency and that gives the most powers to suspend local laws. So, he could just, he could do that kind of as a bridge, if he chose to do it for a couple of weeks which would give us a little bit more time to let things settled.

That's the structure is hard because what we're going to want to do is we're going to want to amend the, I won't say the effective date but the date by because it was effective now, but the date by which the, the biggest producers would have to begin, separating the food. And, I mean, I don't know how we sit down and do that, to be perfectly honest with you. But that's gonna be more your problem than mine. So, there may be a lot of things. There're tools in our box if we want to give ourselves another month to bring all the heads together to figure it out. The County Executive can, you know, he can take certain actions in his part to temporarily tide it over.

I'm wondering whether Legislator Bartels would have the same objection to kind of a band aid approach to that rather than being that that being the main approach.

Bartels: I mean, I don't, I don't have the same objection, but I think we should attempt to figure out in conversation with the Executives office and adjust it in whatever best forecasting as Manna said. We can try to think of what makes the most sense in terms of pushing it back, because we don't know when this is all gonna end. But I think that we could, I think that we can, I think we can pretty ably adjust it ourselves without needing the band-aid but I, but you're right, the band-aid, the band-aid possibility is there, also. As you say, the Executive could issue an Executive Order just as the Executive of the State issued the Executive Order in lifting the plastic bag legislation. I mean, he could do the same thing but, you know, I think we have the time to make, to make the change. And that's why I think we should rather than just sort of relying or pushing it back to the Executive. And I appreciate, Evelyn, the willingness to work with us and take whatever, whatever tact we want to take. But I think, also, we want to work with you and find my perspective as I'd like to, you know, work with you and together to for us to find the best, most sensible date, so

that we're thinking about, you know, our administration in terms of enforcing but we're thinking about our businesses in terms of implementing. Again, this is, you know, I don't, I. I'm very much committed to the legislation I think it's, it's an extraordinary piece of legislation and Ulster County is, you know what I mean, again we're leading on this issue, so, I don't want to take a step back, but I think a delay makes sense.

Wright: It all make sense, Tracey, and I think you're absolutely right that that changing the law, if it's feasible gives, gives people the certainty and also can answer the questions about how the rest of the schedule gets pushed out as a result which would be really helpful to create that certainty.

Greene: I am wondering if it makes sense, just to think about, because the staff is gonna have to, you know, put something together, that we move everything forward by six months. Which would mean that the implementation for this year's law that just had an effect and would stay in effect, the enforcement not start until January of next year so that gives another six months. And every subsequent cohort, have the benefit of going into effect when it is currently scheduled, but to defer the enforcement for six months down the road, so that that way.

It's, it's both generous in terms of time, and also the minimum change in the existing law. So, that's my idea and I would ask that others, you know, think about that and maybe, Evelyn, if you could take that back to the Executive branch staff, and also if there is any specific input from Dr. Smith, or from the County Attorney. But, um, you know I, I, I think by the end of the year, we will really know what's going on. And if we differ in the law, we defer the enforcement for another six months and give everyone else that deferment, I think, I think we'd be on safe ground and also be able to present clarity and do what Legislature's role is, is, you know, creating policy. And we have the band aid available. So that would be my suggestion. Just to make it concrete.

All right. Um, I mentioned about the Solid Waste Planning Commission. And I think what I'd like to do, Laura, is possibly hold a joint meeting. A meeting or a webinar or video conference with the people that are working on the Solid Waste Plan, the Solid Waste Action Plan, and the Solid Waste Planning Commission. Because in my mind, having a completed accepted document that is collaboratively created is essential for the passing of the Solid Waste Management Plan, because I don't believe that plan is, is complete, it, you know, is comprehensive enough in terms of waste furnishing, and there is language in that plan that says to reduce waste to approach zero waste, and we have a zero waste policy. So, I would like us to weave all those efforts together. And that, that's what I'm going to propose. We don't have any dates, but maybe we could

coordinate with your Recycling Oversight Committee and, and the agency and see if we could have a joint meeting to get that on track. Any comments on that?

Petit: I mean that that is a great idea. You know, the more input and the more hands we have working on it, you know, the better the document is. And I agree with you. I, the way the Solid Waste Management Plan is written now, I would not be voting in favor of it. Not unless there's been substantial changes.

Greene: And they don't have to be in that document. They can be as a plan and referred to in the document and it is already in there. There are other concerns I have about the Solid Waste Management Plan and Fawn will remember the recommendations from the Solid Waste Planning Commission to the Agency and I'd be surprised if they were taken. I tend to go to Agency Board meetings, and they were being considered by email last I knew. And I did see the comments from Cornerstone and did not agree with them. So, we'll have to see how this process plays out.

And those are different. They're in addition to the need for a very concrete plan for waste diversion. I'm just trying to think if there is anything else from the Climate Smart Committee.

Petit: The quarantine has reduced our carbon footprint significantly. I had a chat with Evelyn Wright, who said a friend of hers in India, if I'm not mistaken, said he's seen blue skies for the first time in years. So, there is a silver lining.

Greene: There are pictures of the Los Angeles skyline and all over the world. In the sense, this tragedy has forced us to do what we thought we couldn't do. In, in many ways. More people are going to be planting Victory Gardens and, you know, there's a whole shift in mindset. And I think hopefully in crisis has opportunity. But you're absolutely right that, you know, the amount of transportation and the emphasis on local self-reliance are really.

It's a hard lesson to learn but I think one we're experiencing. And so, the, I think the challenge, which the County Executive has articulated, is how to come out with, out of this with a locally resilient economy. And, you know, that's, I know that Legislator, Legislator Archer is thinking about that and many of us are as well.

So, um, I would have to go back and look at the Climate Smart notes. I am not as prepared as they should be for that, but if I find anything that I missed. I do think the one thing in our goals is to address regenerative agriculture, to keep our farms in in the region, and those farms and Ulster County, strong. By, Deedee Barrett has a PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) in northern Dutchess and Columbia County where

the farmers are getting a tax rebate for using regenerative agricultural practices sequester carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. And so that's definitely on our agenda.

Peter, do you have any recollection?

Criswell: One thing that we did talk about was the continued efforts with the Ulster County Fairgrounds and we want to make sure that that continues to move along, even though things are, we don't even know, you know, what the state of the fair is at this point, but there was a lot of really good energy around the ideas of working closely with that team. So, we're going to, you know, there was conversations about continuing that work

Greene: And, Tracy, if there is a meeting scheduled, if that can be on the agenda, and one or two of us could be included. Either that or we can at least ask them.

Tantillo: Tracey left.

Greene: Oh, okay. but we want to ask them to set up a meeting with those people on the Climate Smart Committee, well it's broader than that, that attend the Climate Smart Committee who have some really good ideas about how we can do public recycling and other forms of waste reduction at, at that and composting. With the Ulster County Fair. So, with that...

Criswell: And education. We want to make sure that's included.

Greene: Absolutely. I think I told you guys, the story of how people would go by our compost display, which at the Ulster County Fair was pretty amazing because we could use manure stained animal bedding, as an inoculant. And we would layer the food and the leaves and then a little animal bedding, and they would they would be hot steamy cooking compost piles in two or three days. So, and then people would as they went by the demonstration they'd go, "Oh honey, you think we should use that chicken wire or the concrete blocks?", you know, and you could see they were going from meaning to do backyard composting to actually implementing it. And, and it was just a wonderful experience and so forth. So, we will, um, you know, just take some time, have a meeting, but right now we have to give everybody a chance to get through this pandemic and, and hopefully everybody here, and all our friends and family remain in good health. Stay, stay safe and practice good hygiene practices to protect yourself. Uh, any other business before I call for a motion to adjourn. Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Bruno: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Criswell: I'll second that.

Greene: Okay. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Greene: And thank you all very much. Motion carries.