

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 4, 2020, 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 961 4812 6939
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; Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright; Tim Rose, Executive Director of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Michelle Hook, Vice President of Public Relations, Danskammer Energy; Hayley Carlock, Environmental Advocacy Director, Scenic Hudson; Jess Mullen, Kingston; Emily Sidel;

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:20 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes of April 13, 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 May 19 , 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 Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Motion No. 4:	Motion to postpone Resolution No. 94 with the consent of the sponsor.
Motion By:	Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Wawro
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

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Update – see attached transcript.

Resolution No. 192 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 9, 2020 At 6:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a date for a public hearing to amend Local Law 6 of 2020.

Motion No. 5:	Motion to discuss Resolution No. 192
Motion By:	Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Criswell
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

- **Solid Waste Planning Commission**
 - **Climate Smart Committee**
 - **Zero-Waste initiatives**
 - **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 Petit

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo and Laurie Lichtenstein (transcript)

Minutes Approved: June 1, 2020

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Transcript**

DATE & TIME: May 4, 2019; 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 961 4812 6939
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; Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright; Tim Rose, Executive Director of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Michelle Hook, Vice President of Public Relations, Danskammer Energy; Hayley Carlock, Environmental Advocacy Director, Scenic Hudson; Jess Mullen, Kingston; Emily Sidel;

Mon, 5/4 6:18PM • 1:58:13

Chairwoman Greene 03:31

For us to get started. Do we have everyone from the Committee? I think we do. Yes. And I see Legislator Tracy Bartels has also joined. And Fawn, I just want to be sure, since we're doing this, does Chairman Donaldson have this information, because I don't want him to feel like he has to... He does, okay.

Fawn Tantillo 04:07

He should have this information.

Chairwoman Greene 04:09

Okay, very good. And I wonder if people [inaudible] information.

Fawn Tantillo 04:18

I'm not sure if he knows everything that's going on in the last hour.

Chairwoman Greene 04:23

Okay. I would ask to person with 914... they may not be able to take themselves off mute.

Jay Mahler 04:35

I can do it.

Chairwoman Greene 04:36

Okay, for 914, and for 914-960-1136, and for 215-303. If you would identify yourself just so you know who's on the call.

Jess Mullen 04:54

This is Jess Mullen. I'm calling in and live in Kingston, and I work with New Paltz Climate Action Coalition and Scenic Hudson.

Jay Mahler 05:02

Which number?

Jess Mullen 05:04

215.

Jay Mahler 05:06

Thank you.

Emily Sidel 05:12

Yeah, my name is Emily Sidel. I'm the Hudson Valley organizer for Food and Water Loss.

Chairwoman Greene 05:19

Excellent. Okay, I just, you know, for the notes and for the record. We do have people sign in, when we have live meetings. So, at this point, I would like to call the May 4th meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee to order. And Fawn has provided a flag, so please stand and pledge allegiance to the flag.

Committee members 05:50

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.

Chairwoman Greene 06:05

Thank you. Somehow, it's more important than ever to ensure that sense of unity.

Chairwoman Greene 06:16

And, and with that, I would like to ask the committee if they had a chance to review the minutes. I see some nods. So, I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the... I don't have, I think it's the May 13? Is that right?

Legislator Bruno 06:37

I'll make a motion.

Legislator Criswell 06:38

I'll second that.

Chairwoman Greene 06:40

Okay. Made and seconded.

Chairwoman Greene 06:42

All in favor.

Committee members 06:44

Aye. Aye.

Chairwoman Greene 06:45

Any opposed. Minutes are approved.

Chairwoman Greene 06:50

And, I think. Let's see. To stay in order we would go right to the resolutions, I would like to check with Tim Rose, and be sure that, you know, sometimes we move the agency report up to get it out of the way. It's always a value, but I just want to ask if Tim is okay with going directly to the resolution. Or would you prefer to go now, I give you that option.

Tim Rose 07:33

I'll leave that totally up to you Manna. Either way is fine with me. You as the Chair, that's totally up to you. But thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 07:43

Before I decide I would like to ask... It's my understanding on Resolution Number 94. And this is before I'm even asking for a motion, I just want to know how to order the agenda.

Chairwoman Greene 07:58

Legislator Petit had you... Oh, okay, I do see that Michelle Hook is here. Okay. So, I think that what we'll do is to just go right ahead and ask for a motion to discuss Resolution Number 94. And will the person who makes that motion, if you have it right in front of you, read the title of the motion? Then I'll ask for a second, for the purpose of discussion.

Chairwoman Greene 08:32

So, do I hear a motion from a committee person to discuss Resolution Number 94?

Legislator Petit 08:43

I will make a motion to discuss resolution 94.

Chairwoman Greene 08:47

Would you read it, please. If you haven't if you

Legislator Petit 08:50

I do not have in front of me, Jay?

Chairwoman Greene 08:53

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo 08:55

It is, "Opposing the New Power Plant Facility at the Former Danskammer Energy Site in Newburgh, Orange County, New York."

Chairwoman Greene 09:03

Do I hear a second?

Legislator Bruno 09:07

I'll second that motion.

Chairwoman Greene 09:09

Okay, thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 09:12

And, at this point, Legislator Petit had invited Michelle Hook from Danskammer to make a few comments. And we've also invited Hayley Carlock from Scenic Hudson. So, do the committee members have questions before we hear from each of our guests? Or shall we just hear their comments, and then have our discussion?

Chairwoman Greene 09:45

Legislator Heppner. Unmute, please.

Legislator Heppner 09:50

Yeah. So, I just want to also, I think it's a great opportunity, you know, to have conversations right now, while we do have a little bit more time. But it is, you know, and I've spoken with Legislator Bartels about this, it is our intention to continue, like we did last month. While we went through a month of virtual legislating through committee meetings and session.

Legislator Heppner 10:14

As part of a mutual agreement with our colleagues in the minority caucus, as they have also done, to put a hold on all memorializing resolutions. In order to allow us to focus on the County business we must get done, and addressing the current crisis. So, it has been a mutual agreement that we have that we are not proceeding with memorializing resolutions.

Legislator Heppner 10:40

A big reason for that too is because of the limited public input that we're able to do. So far, the only public input, we can do is do a call-in number, through audio. Which is also been a decision, part of the decision with Minority Leader Ronk. So, I just wanted to preface that. You know, it is again our intention. And then speaking with Legislator Bartels, as well as that all memorializing resolutions, from both sides of the aisle, from both caucuses, to keep them postponed while we operate virtually. So, thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 11:20

Okay, Legislator Bartels did you want to... please go ahead.

Legislator Bartels 11:29

Thanks. I just wanted to add on to what Legislator Heppner just said, and that's in this weekend discuss, if the committee wants to move it out of committee. It would be our intention, Legislator Heppner and mine,

to do, on the floor, to postpone it next month. So, it can either be postponed in committee, or if it's moved to the floor, we would postpone it on the floor as the other memorializing resolutions have been postponed. In the hope that we're at a point where we can more easily facilitate public input. So, we can talk about that after the comments. However this committee wants to proceed.

Chairwoman Greene 12:08

I think that's fine. I do want to say that, and I say this whenever this, the idea of reopening is brought up. I am very concerned about what happened in 1918 and I would rather see New York State and Ulster County stayed closed longer, to be sure that we don't open prematurely and have a second wave that is more devastating.

Chairwoman Greene 12:39

If that becomes the case where this is not a month or two more. Then I think we should revisit the idea of considering memorializing resolutions that are time sensitive. I don't think there's any concern with that right at the moment, with this resolution. But this could go on for six months. In our next resolution we are postponing implementation for a full six months for something that was meant to be implemented in July. We're postponing it till January. That I think is a safe time period for ensuring that we get through this pandemic. Nobody knows that, nobody has the crystal ball.

Chairwoman Greene 13:40

But I do want to suggest to Legislator Heppner that if this does take three or four months before we can meet in person. Then I do think that that agreement should be reconsidered. But at this point, given that, you know, there isn't urgency tonight, and the committee can decide which of the two options that Legislator Bartels outlined, we would like to go with. I would like to invite Michelle Hook from Danskammer to say a few words.

Chairwoman Greene 14:27

And Michelle, I think I'd like to limit it to five minutes, given the agenda. And we'll do the same with Ms. Carlock.

Michelle Hook 14:41

Sure, absolutely. And I apologize, this was this all sort of came about around 4:30 or so today. So, I scrambled to put a few comments together. I do have some PowerPoint slides that I'm happy to share my screen if you'd like to see them. Otherwise, I can just talk a little bit about some of the things I've been hearing in Ulster County and speak to some of the concerns that you have, just for the sake of time. So, why don't you tell me how you'd like me to proceed.

Chairwoman Greene 15:10

If you're good at screen sharing, we're all learning. You're, welcome to do that, and the same would be true for Hayley Carlock.

Chairwoman Greene 15:21

Okay. All right.

Michelle Hook 15:25

It looks like the host has disabled screen sharing by attendees, so it doesn't look like I'm going to be able to share my screen. Unless there's a way to enable it from your end but....

Legislator Petit 15:38

Jay should be able to do that.

Legislator Petit 15:41

Yes, thumbs up, try again.

Michelle Hook 15:52

Can you see my screen now.

Chairwoman Greene 15:56

I think you might need to do one more click. It says you've started screen sharing, but in my experience, there's one more button to push when that message comes up.

Michelle Hook 16:08

It's not showing me another button.

Chairwoman Greene 16:11

Hmm.

Michelle Hook 16:13

It is saying my screen is shared. Well, it's been paused. Why is it then paused? Let's try again. (Long silence)

Legislator Bruno 16:46

A little recording red light up in the corner, is what I see.

Michelle Hook 16:54

From my end it looks as if I'm sharing it, I can try to stop the share and start over quickly.

Chairwoman Greene 17:03

We won't start your time until...

Michelle Hook 17:06

Thank you for that. (silence) Any luck?

Chairwoman Greene 17:24

No. (Silence). No. Michelle, I was going to suggest you email them to Fawn Tantillo or to Victoria Fabella, and they can send them to us after the fact.

Michelle Hook 18:00

That's fine as well. My apologies. Again, from my end it's showing me that I'm sharing that. So, I'll give it one more shot and if this doesn't work then.... (long silence) Alright, well, if you're not seeing it then I will move on.

Legislator Petit 18:54

Can you reverse your screenshot? So we can see your tablet.

Michelle Hook 19:01

I cannot on this computer.

Chairwoman Greene 19:07

I think we're all learning at this late stage in some of our lives (laughter). For some of you, this will be second nature. But for some of us its teaching, pardon my saying so, but teaching old dogs new tricks.

Legislator Criswell 19:27

Why don't you go ahead and do what you're going to share on your PowerPoint.

Michelle Hook 19:33

Sure.

Chairwoman Greene 19:34

Okay.

Michelle Hook 19:39

Did that work?

Tim Rose 19:41

No.

Michelle Hook 19:43

Okay. All right, thank you for your patience.

Michelle Hook 19:51

I think it is important to note that there are a couple things that seem to be the biggest concerns that I'm hearing in your community. So, I want to speak to those first. I'm hearing that there is no need for this facility that natural gas is being phased out because of CLCPA (Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act). I'm also hearing that this plant is going to cause a lot of harm and pollution, to the area and community. I'd like to address those two things first and quickly.

Michelle Hook 20:23

This facility, whether new or old, is going to continue to operate. As will the other very old power plants in the region of the Hudson Valley. They're all needed. When Indian Point goes down, they'll be needed even more. Yes, Cricket Valley has come online. Yes, CPV is now online as well. But there's still a deficit for power in that region.

Michelle Hook 20:46

CLCPA has created targets. And they're wonderful targets. But unfortunately, those targets can't be met just because they've been set.

Michelle Hook 20:55

As a matter of fact, the New York ISO has just done a grid study. And they're still working to figure out the analysis of whether or not we can even meet those targets. And the draft study was just published last week. So, this information is extremely timely. And they'll be putting it out in full form here probably in the next six months or so. And that's another component, an economic component to the study that they need to do.

Michelle Hook 21:22

But the thing that they looked at first and foremost is can these targets even be met? Can they be met? And can we still have reliable power as we try to go towards those targets set forth?

Michelle Hook 21:32

And what they found is that we're going to need significant amounts of flexibility on call. Meaning energy that you can turn on at a moment's notice. Resources like natural gas power plants that can come on quickly as needed. The analysis show that there's a significant imbalance between the demand we have in New York State and the power generation that would be available if you take into account all of the targets that are set within CLCPA.

Michelle Hook 21:59

In the winter. They say that half of the hours in the winter, would not have enough power to generate for people's needs. Even if you added 10 times the amount of wind, in the State of New York. You would not have enough power, half of the time. In the summertime, they said, almost every single hour of the day, you would not have enough power.

Michelle Hook 22:21

The word "deficit" in the draft report is talked about throughout. The need to increase intermittent renewable power, alone, is not going to meet the demands. On call power needs to be available.

Michelle Hook 22:35

Alright. So, what does that mean? We may not be the main power source that we rely on in 20 years, but we will certainly be needed as backup power.

Michelle Hook 22:46

And the question you need to answer is, do you want that backup power to come from an extremely old, inefficient and dirty facility? Or, would you prefer that backup power come from something cleaner, more efficient, that uses less than half the natural gas of the existing facility?

Michelle Hook 23:02

I wish I could show it to you, but this facility is going to produce 95% less nitrogen oxide, 88% less carbon dioxide. VOCs particulate matter all go down by more than 70% across the board. Carbon dioxide reductions are even more than that.

Michelle Hook 23:22

The thing that people need to keep in mind is that this facility, not only as a one-to-one, is an improvement from old Danskammer to new Danskammer, but it's also offsetting Roseton, Bowline, and other old facilities in this region.

Michelle Hook 23:38

One thing people don't realize is, we still rely on a lot of out of state coal power to provide power to the lower Hudson Valley. Yes, we've shut down all the coal plants in New York, but we still import a lot of coal from other grids. And guess what? We'll still need that, if you don't let us offset that with a new facility.

Michelle Hook 23:56

During this COVID, we talked about sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and how it's contributing to COVID. If you want to see reductions across the board in those, you need to have efficient and cleaner natural gas facilities to get us there.

Michelle Hook 24:08

So maybe it only runs for 15 or 20 years, but it's 15 or 20 years of cleaner power than you would have otherwise. And in 2040, if the grid is ready to approach things from a renewable and a battery power perspective, we'll be in a position to shut down.

Michelle Hook 24:25

Something we haven't shared with people because it's still been too much in the works, is that our facility, the turban that we've chosen from Mitsubishi, has the ability to run on zero carbon, hydrogen power, which can be created by renewables.

Michelle Hook 24:40

We use renewable power, you mix it with water, through an electrolyzer, and then our facility could potentially run on hydrogen. So, when that technology is available to transport that hydrogen, and store that hydrogen, we could then in 2040 transition to be a part of that zero-carbon mix, as we move forward.

Michelle Hook 24:58

If you're familiar with the Legislature, there was a bill from Cusick (Assemblyman Michael Cusick) that actually addressed this issue, and the creation of storage for hydrogen facilities. It's the newest thing the state is looking at as a contributor. Because renewable power alone, because it is so intermittent, the wind and solar, isn't enough to address our power needs. So, they are looking at incorporating other things like battery power. Which right now only gives you about four hours of power.

Michelle Hook 25:22

So, you can add things like hydrogen power, which can help fill in those gaps, so you wouldn't need the natural gas. But in the interim, we can provide you with a more efficient natural gas facility. And then, phase two, could be the transition to hydrogen so that we can fill in the gaps with hydrogen power.

Michelle Hook 25:39

So, you're asking us to continue to run a 1950s, 1960s Buick when we could be running a Prius, to get us through to the next phase. I don't know if there are questions. specifically.

Michelle Hook 25:52

I have numbers. I'm happy to send them to you after this so that you can see how significant the reductions are across the region with the new facility versus the old facility.

Michelle Hook 26:04

I can tell you that it's so significant that it's like, replacing 50,000 vehicles on the road today with electric vehicles. That's how much of a carbon reduction it is, by just replacing our facility, our old one with a new one.

Michelle Hook 26:20

I certainly don't think I have to tell you about the jobs and the tax dollars that this plant contributes to the region. I was a little taken aback, I apologize, when I was told to come on the call. I thought only Hayley Carlock from Scenic Hudson was going to be on and I see that there are a number of other people from opposition groups to our project on the, on the phone as well.

Michelle Hook 26:42

We have quite a few supporters that would have been happy to get on the phone as well. The Marlboro Town and other school district, the unions and a lot of other local organizations throughout Orange County, that are supportive of this project and see the value in it for the region. Not just because of the 450 jobs, and the significant tax dollars that we provide, but we give back a significant amount to the community as well.

Michelle Hook 27:08

And I would be remiss if I didn't say this. I respect very much what Hayley does. She's going to tell you the facility is not needed. She's going to point to a report from 2017 before the CLCPA targets were put in place and tell you that this facility is not necessary.

Michelle Hook 27:27

Her job, as it is the job of Food and Water Watch, and the others on the phone, is to tell you that fossil plants aren't needed. That's the goal of their facility, that's the goal of their organizations. But, what's not their job is to maintain a reliable grid. Keep your lights on, keep your heat running. That's not the goal those organizations. Their goal is to fundraise off of shutting down fossil fuel facilities, whether they're needed or not.

Michelle Hook 27:53

And there's also a huge cost savings associated with our facility, \$53 million across the state and \$11 million in the Hudson Valley alone on an annual basis. Why? Because we're using 50% less natural gas, and that cost is passed on to the customer, typically.

Michelle Hook 28:11

We don't use fracked gas, quote unquote. If you're a Central Hudson customer. We're a customer of Central Hudson too. We get our natural gas from the same place that you get your natural gas from. We don't decide where it comes from. Central Hudson has contracts out with various producers. Brings in the natural gas and we purchase it from them. And we make the electricity that comes into your home so that you can turn your lights on.

Michelle Hook 28:34

That's pretty much it. I'm available to answer questions if you have specific questions.

Chairwoman Greene 28:42

There was a specific question in the chat box. But at this point, you know, there are a lot of things I could say. And I think I'd rather turn this over to Hayley Carlock and then to the committee to ask questions.

Chairwoman Greene 29:07

Hayley, do have... Excuse me, do have some things that you would like to share with us?

Hayley Carlock 29:16

Sure, yeah, thank you, Manna and everyone. I really appreciate having the opportunity to speak here, much like Michelle I found out about this only shortly beforehand, so I don't have, you know, a well-polished PowerPoint to share. I do have a couple of slides and images, I'd like to try to share I'm going to try this very quickly. If it does not work right away, you can simply move on and just speak, and I can share them afterwards.

Hayley Carlock 29:41

I'm going to my screen. We shall see how this goes. Okay, we'll see if this works. Alright. Can you guys see my screen? Okay.

Legislator Petit 30:06

Never mind, we can make it bigger. Okay.

Hayley Carlock 30:08

Okay. Is it working? Okay. Is that working?

Legislator Petit 30:10

Yes, thank you.

Hayley Carlock 30:12

I am going to address as Michelle alluded to really quickly. Sort of the two primary things I think you know people are interested in knowing more about and want to care about which are the need for the plant, and also the potential for emissions increases and air pollution. I'm going to take them in a different order.

Hayley Carlock 30:31

Really quickly. When it comes to looking at the proposed Danskammer facility and the emissions that it could produce. This is a table that I'm sharing right now, which is directly taken from Danskammer Energy is Article 10 application to the siting board. The only thing that's not copied directly as the highlighted yellow parts which I just did for the ease of sort of drawing your eye to what I'm going to discuss. Otherwise, this is verbatim from their application.

Hayley Carlock 31:04

And this shows here, it's a comparison that they're required to do by the Clean Air Act. But it shows a comparison between the actual emissions, on average, on an annual basis, from the current existing facility,

over a two-year period. And you see they chose to do 2014 to 2016. So, pretty recent. It has to be within the [inaudible] years, and the projected potential emissions from the new plant if it would run as a baseline facility.

Hayley Carlock 31:31

And this is something that they're required to do by statute. And you can see here that for almost all the rooms, there's one exception. There is a very significant increase in potential emissions from what the old plant actually produces and from what the new plant has the potential to produce. And the reason for that is because the new plant is very likely to run much, much more often than the old plant.

Hayley Carlock 31:57

Ms. Hook mentioned that the new plant would reduce pollutants and emissions. But that's on a per hour basis. Hour to hour, the new facility is going to be newer, it's going to be more efficient when it burns fuel. However, it's going to run much more often. And again, this is an analysis that DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) requires through the Clean Air Act. And based on these significant emissions increases, Danskammer is required to do additional emissions protocols, because of...

Hayley Carlock 32:29

So, I mean you can see there, in plain sight, that the emissions of greenhouse gases are going to increase about [12,000%], the emissions of particulate matter are going, and VOC's are going to increase around the order of 2,500%. And that is, this is taken directly from Danskammer's application.

Hayley Carlock 32:54

So, I do just want to make sure it's abundantly clear that air emissions are going to increase as a result of a new plant taking the place of the old one because it's going to run much more often.

Hayley Carlock 33:09

And to that, I will just show you these bar charts which are, you know, simply a visualization of the previous table, from directly, the data is taken directly from Danskammer. But it just shows you just how much more those emissions could increase with the new plant.

Hayley Carlock 33:30

Another thing that Ms. Hook mentioned, and that you'll hear a lot from the folks from Danskammer Energy, is that the new plant will offset older 30-year sources, including the existing plant, including Roseton and others. And based on that, it will make the air as a whole, cleaner.

Hayley Carlock 33:50

Now, when Danskammer speaks about looking at things on a regional basis... When I ask people what they think that means... They think it means maybe the Hudson Valley. Maybe the tri-county area. It's going to positively impact the air quality there.

Hayley Carlock 34:03

But when Danskammer speaks about improving the air quality on a regional basis. They took into account the entire State of New York. All of the New England states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Province of Ontario, in Canada.

Hayley Carlock 34:16

And our experts... We've hired Synapse Energy Economics, has just begun their analysis, we don't have any results from them yet, believes that on its face, that's an entirely inappropriate geographical region to be looking at when you're looking at emissions. And it sort of artificially makes the numbers look better than they otherwise would.

Hayley Carlock 34:36

And I think it's important to note that if you look at the entire State of New York, but just the state. Even based on Danskammer's own modeling, and again, this is in their Article 10 application. Greenhouse gases are projected to increase over 300,000 tons per year with the new plant online, versus everything else the same, but the old plant staying online, and that is based on their own modeling.

Hayley Carlock 35:01

So, it's a bit disingenuous to say that air, our air quality is going to improve as a result of this new plan, it's just not going to happen.

Hayley Carlock 35:10

And I'll just be really briefly to the, the need question. And the goals set forth in the CLCPA certainly are ambitious. And it's absolutely true that we're nowhere near reaching them right now and that it is going to take some time to ramp up.

Hayley Carlock 35:26

But there are several dozen large grid-scale solar projects and wind projects currently in Article 10 queue. As most, if not all of you probably know, there has been a new Article 23 passed that creates a new Renewable Energy Office under the Department of State that proposes an entirely new way to site renewable energy in the State of New York.

Hayley Carlock 35:50

And the entire purpose of it is to accelerate dramatically the approval process for these large-scale facilities. You're going to see a total sea change in the next five to 10 years in the energy makeup, in the State of New York.

Hayley Carlock 36:02

Right now, we don't have it. Five to 10 years from now, we absolutely should have enough. And in addition to that, there are several very significant transmission projects that are in the Article 7 State siting process that will bring between 1,800 and 2,500 megawatts of energy that is currently bottlenecked in the less populated regions in the northern and western part of the state. And it will relieve that bottleneck and allow that energy, which is primarily renewable to come Downstate and further, you know, relieve any pressure on the capacity here in the lower Hudson Valley.

Hayley Carlock 36:41

So, we believe there's absolutely no need for this plant. It is certainly not needed to keep the lights on. And that by the time these older, dirtier plants are retiring, we will have sufficient wind, solar, storage, increased energy efficiency, and those transmission constraints will be relieved. And the New York State Independent

System Operator, a recent study released, having to do with the retirement of Indian Point, all show that as long as we continue on the track or going with renewable energy in New York, we will be able to supplement that with cleaner, greener energy and we don't need to rely on new gas plants and fossil fuel infrastructure. I will leave it at that. I think I went over my time.

Chairwoman Greene 37:26

Michelle. I mean, I Hayley if you unshare your screen. Very good. So, at this point, I would... I see Legislator Wawro has her hand up. Go ahead.

Legislator Wawro 37:41

Manna, I just had a question. Were we making open a public for the personal comments on the screen?

Chairwoman Greene 37:53

Jay should answer that, because I'm not managing that.

Legislator Wawro 37:57

No, but it's up to you to tell her what's allowed. And I was under the understanding that the chat was not available to people coming, you know, viewing. Other than committee members. So, I think, verify that to her.

Chairwoman Greene 38:13

I would ask that if it's a private comment that you send it privately. But...

Legislator Wawro 38:23

But Jay could turn off the chat except for the people that you approve.

Chairwoman Greene 38:28

Yeah. This was my thought and I'm open to what the committee wants to do but since we weren't going to recognize all of the people that have called in, that we would let them ask questions in the chat. And we're all just figuring this out as we go along. And different committees have done it differently. We could do it the other way around, we could make the chat private to the committee members and then take a few public questions or comments.

Legislator Wawro 39:05

I just think distracting that when we're listening to somebody speak people are chatting back and forth, you know, posting chats.

Chairwoman Greene 39:13

Okay, if it is more, you know I want to keep the meetings transparent. But if we make the chat available only to committee members. Then, take the meeting will be a little longer. I think because instead of just reading the comments in the chat, you know.

Legislator Wawro 39:41

Oh, I don't know, I misunderstood I thought in the beginning you said that to send to Vicky, or Fawn their comments.

Chairwoman Greene 39:48

I was understanding originally, but I, you know, I think I want to just point out to the staff that collectively we're going to need to get clearer guidelines. We're as I said, figuring this out as we go along.

Chairwoman Greene 40:07

In a committee meeting, we would typically recognize people, if they comment, we would limit the time but in a committee meeting. You know we have often recognized, members of the public who want to add, especially when there's been a presentation, just...

Legislator Wawro 40:32

Oh, and don't get me wrong I don't have a problem with that I just had a problem with him doing it. Well, other things are going on.

Chairwoman Greene 40:41

So, you're finding that distracting. Alright. Well, for now, to honor that I'm going to ask that Jay, if she can make the chat just for the committee. No. Okay. So,

Jay Mahler 41:02

Right now, Manna, I have that all chats go to the host. That's me. So, if they want them to be directed to someone in particular, they should indicate so and I will. So, if it's a question for your speaker. I'll send it to you or the speaker. And if it's just a comment, which is what appears to be some of these are just comments, then I can save the chat and provide them to everyone after the meeting. But that's the best this chat will allow me to do.

Jay Mahler 41:27

The restrictions are very limited. No one can chat. Everyone can chat. Only publicly. Or they can chat with the host only. And that's the option that I chose just so that you all aren't distracted but you can still get the information if you need it.

Chairwoman Greene 41:43

Okay. And I do think in a committee meeting people would not be chatting. They would be asked to step outside if they want to have a conversation. They would be listening. As we're listening. So, I am finding it a little distracting too... So, if that works for everyone, Jay will monitor the chats.

Chairwoman Greene 42:12

And I'd like at this point to set aside the next 10 minutes, but not longer than that, we have other items on the agenda, for questions from committee members. And also, other Legislators, the two resolutions sponsors are part of this conversation. And I would ask that members of the public, please do send in their comments or questions. And it's the best way to do that is to VFab@co.ulster.ny.us.

Chairwoman Greene 43:04

So, I'm looking for questions or comments from committee members or resolution sponsors. Yes, Legislator Criswell

Legislator Criswell 43:24

I just had one comment about if we are indeed going to postpone this to next month, or when whenever we're going to postpone it. I feel like we're going to go through this exact same process again. So, I'm just wondering if there's a kind of a more efficient way to have people have their voices heard, but not have to have them, not have to have us to this exact same thing in a month, and then a month again, or whenever the process happens. So, you know, I'm just trying to figure out efficiency for this.

Chairwoman Greene 44:01

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels 44:04

Thank you. Yes, I think undoubtedly and that's part of the reason that we're willing to postpone because we expect a very robust public input from, from all sides of the argument. But in the meantime, this is an opportunity to ask questions which we can't normally do at public comment. So, here in committee, you know if you have any questions for either of the people who've presented today, it's a good opportunity for you to ask. And even if there aren't ready answers, we have the time to get the answers back. And to that end, I know, Michelle, Ms. Hook, you mentioned that you had numbers that you were going to provide us. Can... we don't right now, but after the meeting, can you provide those numbers to the clerks?

Michelle Hook 44:58

I absolutely can. And I'm happy to seek some clarification on what Hayley shared with you as well. If you look at our Article 10 filing, there are a million charts like the one that she showed you. So, I'm not familiar with the one that she shared with you. And I didn't have the opportunity, or the amount of time, to get a technical person on this call for this evening. To point directly to what Hayley was speaking to. But I'm happy to do that and then get some answers on the chart that she shared because I'm not familiar with that one.

Legislator Bartels 45:21

And, and to that end, when you said, when you spoke about the numbers, the numbers depending on which line, some of what Hayley brought up as well, going down, were you... What assumption were you using in terms of the amount of time that the plant would be in operation?

Michelle Hook 45:41

70 percent of the time. 70 percent. That's what we were told by the New York ISO (Independent System Operator) it would be.

Michelle Hook 45:47

I would also like to point out that all of the assumptions in the data that we ran for our Article 10 filing, or what the PSE and the DEC decided we needed to run. So, we go through an entire four-month process called the stipulations process where we sit in the room with the DEC, the DOH (New York State Department of Health). Hayley was actually part of all of that. And we discussed how far regionally we're going to do the modeling. You know, what the mileage for visibility, for sound, et cetera, will be on each and every one of our studies. And all of us come to an agreement on that, before we undergo any of the actual work. So, that wasn't unilaterally decided by Danskammer, what those modeling assumptions would be, everyone in the room had a say in what they would be. And the PSC had final sign off.

Legislator Bartels 46:34

Thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 46:39

Anyone else?

Legislator Petit 46:42

I have a question.

Chairwoman Greene 46:43

Yes.

Legislator Petit 46:45

The Danskammer project, compared to the GlidePath project, that was proposed in the Town of Ulster. There was also public discourse. And they did convince GlidePath to put in strictly batteries. It's your facility able to run just on solar with, while they're charging batteries. Or, I mean, have you looked at that model? Or is this something that, you know, as you just mentioned, DEC went over it, so this is what DEC is requiring, or recommending that you do? Or is it the public utilities? I mean, could you just go a little more in depth to the reason that it can't be totally solar.

Michelle Hook 47:31

So, sure. I actually had a picture in my PowerPoint slide that I'm happy to send you. How much space it would take to do just 200 megawatts of solar? We only have 180 acres, and you'd need a heck of a lot more than that. I think you'd need like half of the Town of [inaudible]. It's pretty significant. So, solar is not really an option to provide the same amount of power that we supplied to the lower Hudson Valley now.

Michelle Hook 47:58

The difference in the GlidePath projects and ours is that we're an existing facility that cannot be decommissioned. So, we either need to continue to run, as our old facility. Replace it with something comparable, in terms of the megawatts we provide, which is about 530 megawatts, that we provide now.

Michelle Hook 48:19

And if we choose to shut down, or are asked to shut down, we would have to go through a decommissioning process. Where we would apply to the PSC. Ask. They would have to do reliability studies to see specifically if removing Danskammer from the lower Hudson Valley zone would be a problem for reliability.

Michelle Hook 48:37

So, that's one way of saying that the existing facility cannot just be turned off. And we can't just put batteries there because batteries don't generate any power. They just store power that's generated somewhere else. So, you still need a power generator.

Michelle Hook 48:53

We would love to put battery storage in the old facility so that we can serve a renewable purpose as well as having the power generator there. But for the time being, whether old or new Danskammer we have to have a power generation facility on that site, that is available to the zone, if they need it.

Chairwoman Greene 49:17

Anyone else? Okay. Yes, please. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels 49:28

This is another question for Michelle. Will Danskammer Energy be conducting any studies on the existing gas lines to make sure that there are no leaks.

Michelle Hook 49:39

So, that's Iroquois Pipeline. Iroquois Pipeline has to undergo its own federal and state bi-annual service requirements for leakage. So, it's its own private entity, since the energy system deregulated years ago. But there's a rigorous system in place. They have to take a certain section of pipe every year into what they call is pigging. Go in and X-ray the pipe. Make sure there are no leaks they have to do infrared flyovers, et cetera. So, each private entity has to undergo that, and it's federally and state regulated. So, while Danskammer wouldn't have to do it for another private company, that private company is required to do those things.

Legislator Bartels 50:26

Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels 50:30

Okay. I think we might be ready to transition deciding how we want to move forward, unless there are other questions or comments.

Chairwoman Greene 50:49

So, there been two proposals that I heard. Well, there are three. We can... no, just two. We can hold it in committee, or we can vote it out of committee, so that there's an opportunity for public comment, knowing that the co-sponsors are going to recommend that it go back to committee. After there's been more robust public comment, which, you know, would put that off. And we've also heard Legislator Heppner say that there's a move, not to work on memorializing resolutions, when we're doing virtual meetings. Legislator Bruno, please.

Legislator Bruno 51:39

To kind of piggyback with what Pete had said earlier, redoing it, doing it over again. It's a real very real possibility, especially being that we already know that we're going to be postponing it either here or in the session. That being said, rather than make you have to go through it twice. I'm going to make a motion that we postpone this resolution until we have a better understanding of the crisis that we're in and whether we go back to floor meetings.

Legislator Bartels 52:16

I second.

Chairwoman Greene 52:20

Yes. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels 52:24

Sorry. So, just to be clear, you're, you want to postpone it, in committee, and keep it in committee, rather than postpone it on the floor?

Legislator Bruno 52:33

And if I can, at the same time, by postponing it, I think it will also give all the players a chance to, since we're, we're doing a whole new format of meeting, and everybody has their opinions and their positions and where to stand. If we it gives us time to get them in writing more so. Possibly, might be a way to do it so like, like me as a single Legislator I could sit there and I could look at all the individual letters, and I can concentrate on them more and actually make more of an informed decision....

Legislator Bartels 53:03

I'm losing you. I don't know if anybody else is losing you. I can't hear you.

Legislator Bruno 53:07

Okay. I guess, if anybody who has any comments, it will give us extra time, where they can put them in writing and get them to us. So, each Legislator... so we can make more of an informed decision, as opposed to just listening to it on the screen, which does have a certain distraction in its inherency. So, that's another reason why I think that we should be able to postpone it. And people like Michelle, and Scenic Hudson, you know, Hayley, and I see other faces there as well, can get their opinions to us in writing. That would help a lot. And by postponing it, I think it'll give us that extra time to do that.

Legislator Criswell 53:51

I agree with that, Legislator Bruno.

Chairwoman Greene 53:56

Legislator Wawro, did you want to add anything?

Legislator Wawro 53:59

No. I'll second that.

Chairwoman Greene 54:02

Okay. So, I hear a motion to postpone a decision. To hold this in committee. And I'd like to call the question. All in favor?

Committee members 54:18

Aye. Aye.

Chairwoman Greene 54:20

Anyone opposed? Oh, I'm sorry. I really should check with... it sounds to me like the co-sponsors are okay with that.

Legislator Bartels 54:32

It'll be with our consent, but it's postponed until next month.

Chairwoman Greene 54:35

Okay.

Legislator Bartels 54:36

I just wanted to be clear that it's postponed for one month.

Legislator Heppner 54:39

Yeah.

Chairwoman Greene 54:40

Okay.

Legislator Bruno 54:41

If I need to amend the motion to say that that I will, it's fine. I'll make a motion to...

Legislator Heppner 54:47

No, you don't have to.

Legislator Bruno 54:48

Okay.

Chairwoman Greene 54:49

Alright. So, the motion is carried.

Chairwoman Greene 54:52

And I'd like to invite Hayley to just let the committee know, and we'll let the full Legislature know, you have an event coming up that addresses the health issues, would you like to just share that with the committee and move on?

Hayley Carlock 55:12

Absolutely. And I can send the info to the clerk if people are interested. On Wednesday evening we are hosting a webinar talking about public health impacts of Danskammer more specifically, and gas plants generally. We'll have Dr. David Carpenter speaking, who is the director of the SUNY Institute for Public Health and the Environment. So, we're really excited about that. It's at 5:30 on Wednesday. And again, I can send information to those members of the Legislature.

Chairwoman Greene 55:46

And I'd also like to just remind everyone, because we've talked about this in the committee, that there is a very active Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Planning process, where we hope to have a roadmap to meet the goals of CLCPA.

Chairwoman Greene 56:06

And, indeed, those goals are ambitious and will take a lot of land space. Scenic Hudson has been working on a municipal toolkit that will help municipalities figure out the best, most appropriate places for solar, which will be the main form of renewable energy generation here in the Hudson Valley. In a way that will protect our prime farmland, protect our farmers, in some cases to enhance their revenue, while protecting their ability

to ensure food security. And also, to protect forests and other lands that are ecologically important and part of the climate cycle.

Chairwoman Greene 56:57

So, you know, here in the Hudson Valley we are actively addressing these questions. Not waiting for the State.

Chairwoman Greene 57:08

And I wanted to just give two other tips. They are now calling CLCPA, or the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, just the "Climate Act." And I thought that's a good habit to get into because it's going to come up a lot. It is the law of the land in New York State.

Chairwoman Greene 57:31

And they're also for the accelerated siting act, that that Hayley mentioned, just to call it the "Accelerated Siting Act." It has a much longer title. And then people will know what we're talking about and we won't have to use so many acronyms.

Chairwoman Greene 57:48

So, I think we've, we're complete on this topic for tonight. And we'll just continue to gather information and hear from the public. And when the time is appropriate, we'll move it out of committee, but for now, we'll leave it where it is.

Chairwoman Greene 58:13

And I think maybe before we take the next resolution, Tim Rose has been very patiently waiting. I don't even... he may be hiding behind one of my... If Tim is here maybe, we could do a real quick update on UCRRA (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency). And also, ask Evelyn Wright if she has any comments she would like to make. And then we'll take the food waste composting revision or new law. But it's an update of the previous law.

Chairwoman Greene 58:50

So, Tim, do you want to give us a quick update? I know there was a meeting, recently, of the Board and where do things stand, please?

Tim Rose 58:59

Yep, real quick. And the Compliance Officer position. The Board would like to wait until the COVID-19 pandemic is over, but at least when things start to open up before we hire for that position. So, that's where we are with that.

Tim Rose 59:17

We did receive the approval letter from DEC last week. However, it has to be revised. That's why I was, I was just about, honestly, to send it to the Committee, [inaudible] Committee, when I noticed that some of the wording was not correct in the letter. So, I've asked the DEC to revise that. They said they will. They agreed. And as soon as I get that approval letter, Cornerstone we'll be printing up copies of the hard copies of the plan for the Board and for the Agency. And then they'll know probably email the Environmental Committee. If not, I'll email a copy of the plan as well.

Tim Rose 59:59

Just to give a little more detail in regard to the letter the approval letter. They actually had in the letter at the County was responsible for implementation as well as conducting a self-analysis and reporting back to DEC. They had us... They had the County confused with the Ulster County Resource Recovery (Agency), which happens quite a bit. So, when I pointed that out, they agreed. They said, yes, the Resource Recovery is a separate entity, and they're the ones that are responsible for implementing it. So, they're making those changes. And as soon as I get the letter, I'll forward on to you.

Chairwoman Greene 60:40

Thank you. I know that, you know, several of our committees have weighed in and we'll be looking forward to seeing how that gets processed by the Agency.

Chairwoman Greene 60:54

Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell 60:56

Yeah. Just had a quick question for you, Tim. Have you taken your programs, your community programs online now. You know, all the composting programs and all those great programs that you guys do.

Tim Rose 61:07

I know. Yes. I know our recycling coordinator, as well as our recycling educator, is doing some online work with some of those community outreaches, and they are posting them on our website.

Legislator Criswell 61:22

It should be great. It'd be great for us to be able to promote that work. You know, right, and we're just starting to get outside and they're itchy to get their compost going and do other things. So, we'd love to be able to provide them with some guidance.

Tim Rose 61:39

Sure. Sure. I hesitated saying was on our website, because after I started saying that, I know they did some online work with some of the community outreach, but it was it was some of the programs we had already scheduled to do in-house. And then they reached out to those individuals that were signed up to do some online work. However, I don't know if that was on our website, so I have to back off of that statement.

Chairwoman Greene 62:02

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels 62:05

Thank you, Tim. I'm following on Legislator Criswell's question. What's the status of that household hazardous waste program and collection, the electronics collection that you do?

Tim Rose 62:19

April's was canceled.

Legislator Bartels 62:20

Mmm hmm.

Tim Rose 62:22

Obviously, we couldn't hold it because there's no way you can have a social distancing. There's too many people around. You know, trying to get materials out of trunks, and, you know, out of vehicles, and so forth. So, it just was not...

Tim Rose 62:34

And plus, there was a stay at home order. You know, you can't have people coming out to these things. So, yeah, the April one was cancelled. It was supposed to be last April 25, that was to be held. I guess last Saturday, not this Saturday, this past Saturday.

Tim Rose 62:49

Right now, we're still on for the July event. As far as we know. However, I did see a DEC, you know, an email come from DEC today. Because that event is held at the DEC headquarters in New Paltz every year. And the DEC individual that we're in communication with, one of the chief engineers down there. He said, well, we'll keep it scheduled but you know, we'll have to play it by ear, whether or not they'll be able to host it for us.

Legislator Bartels 63:15

I just want to, you know, say publicly, that I hope that you can figure out a way to do it and keep the physical distancing. You know, maybe where people could drop it. And I don't know, you could you could strategize it. Because I mean, I think you've probably seen it, I know that there is a massive clean out underway. You know people are really taking this time to clean out their garages and clean out their homes. And purge. You know, like I've never seen before. I know I'm doing it.

Legislator Bartels 63:49

And so, I think that it's an opportunity that would be lost. Because people are probably finding the craziest of things, that I'd hate for them, in the absence of an event like that, to just put them in the waste stream, the regular waste stream. So, I know it's a challenge, but I hope that you'll start to think about ways to strategize that you could do it safely.

Tim Rose 64:14

If we did it, you'd have to greatly limit the amount of vehicles you'd bring in. Because you'll literally have 25 people that are right next to each other when they're unloading these vehicles. And that's how fast it is. Because we'll do 400 vehicles in six hours.

Tim Rose 64:29

So, as soon as these vehicles are coming in, you've got three or four people on top of each other, trying to get materials out of trunks. Sometimes takes two people to lift some of these heavy containers, to get them out of minivans, and so forth.

Tim Rose 64:41

So, I mean, we could probably do it, but you're going to... I'm just thinking off the top of my head. Because you'd have to greatly reduce the amount of vehicles. Because it's going to take you a long time to keep everybody away from each other. So, one vehicle can be unloaded let's say by one person. Instead of having three or four.

Legislator Bartels 64:59

Right. I don't expect you to have an answer now, but I think if you could start strategizing different ways that you could look at it. It's definitely such an asset to the community. And in times like right now I think it's probably needed more than ever. I think there's more people probably have boxes full of, you know, ancient cans of things that they found deep in their garages or attics. So, at least I hope they do rather than just putting it into their waste stream. So...

Tim Rose 65:31

It's definitely something we can look at. It sounds like an email I got today, the DEC may not allow us to be there, they basically said we're going to play it by ear, right now, to see where we are in July. So, if they don't allow us to be there, for whatever reason, because I know most of them are all working from home out of those offices. Then we'll have to find another venue and that may be coming back up to our facility.

Legislator Bartels 65:57

Okay, so, all right, well thank you. Thanks for even thinking about it.

Chairwoman Greene 66:01

Sure.

Chairwoman Greene 66:01

And Tim, if it's at all possible, maybe there could be a PSA reminding people that if they are using this time, where people are staying at home, and doing spring cleaning. I would venture to say that probably all of us are in that boat right now. That they carefully set aside hazardous materials, you know chemicals and other hazardous materials, and also electronics, for when the next collections are. But I think this would be very timely for a PSA, or whatever outreach capability, Facebook, social media et cetera to get the word out to remind people not to take that shortcut.

Tim Rose 66:58

Right. Duly noted.

Chairwoman Greene 67:01

And then the last thing I want to say is that this pandemic has also caused us to slow down on the excellent momentum we had toward creating a Zero Waste Plan. But we will get back to it. People are adjusting to this alternate lifestyle that is forced upon us. And I know that Legislator Petit has provided a really good draft, an outline. And also, staff and board members from the agency, and a few other volunteers, are very interested in helping to create that Zero Waste Management Plan, which I think is going to be a critical part of the whole effort moving forward.

Chairwoman Greene 67:52

Alright. So, at this point I'll see if I can pull it back up. We're going to get back to resolutions. And Evelyn, this particular resolution involves your staff. So, if there are other things that you want to add.

Chairwoman Greene 68:10

And I'm just looking for where I pulled up the...

Chairwoman Greene 68:17

Can I hear a motion on the Food Waste Management? If anyone has it in front of them. We want to move forward on the next resolution. And I'm sorry, it's hard for me to juggle three things at once. Oh, here it is.

Chairwoman Greene 68:34

Resolution Number, 192. Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 9, 2020 At 6:10 PM.

Chairwoman Greene 69:11

And apparently, since it's in the resolution, there is a way to hold a public hearing. Basically, what this says is that we will, instead of implementing the Food Waste Composting Law Number, Local Law Number 5 that was passed last year, we will extend that date by six months to January 2021, and all subsequent dates. So, that's for generators of two tons or more. And then, the generators that generate one ton, three quarter ton, and half a ton would all be given an additional six months. So, those dates were extended by six months.

Chairwoman Greene 70:03

But when you change a law, you need to create a new local law. And so the rest of the law is identical, but it's to give the Department of Energy, and the staff, the County staff that have been redeployed to work on Resilience, and other really critical problems during the corona pandemic, time to catch the breath, and be sure that the implementation goes smoothly.

Chairwoman Greene 70:39

So, I'd like to hear a motion and a second. For purposes of discussion and then we'll take it from there.

Legislator Petit 70:48

I'll make the motion.

Legislator Criswell 70:51

I'll second it.

Legislator Wawro 70:52

Okay, thank you Legislator Petite and Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Petit 70:58

I have a question, Manna. I wasn't in favor of postponing this. I mean we just passed the law last year, and I feel the businesses have had time, you know, even if a lot of the restaurants aren't actually open, but you're

saying this is for the county staff, because right now they're in the midst of a very successful and very busy Project Resilience. So, I think with that, I could do another six months, as long as it didn't go beyond that.

Chairwoman Greene 71:33

Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell 71:35

I do want to say that I really appreciate going back to this and adding clarity in a time when enforcing this would be really unrealistic. I think it just makes so much sense to give it a little bit more time. Give businesses more time to understand that these are the new time frames and to get all our ducks in a row. We're living in cuckoo land right now. So, we just don't know how it's going to play out. So, I think giving it just a little bit of a breather is prudent. So, thank you for doing that.

Chairwoman Greene 72:12

Yeah, it seems to me that those... There are quite a few in the first [inaudible], the first 26 businesses that are already doing it, many [inaudible] on site. I'm sure it's a [inaudible] downscaled effort at SUNY New Paltz because cafeteria is closed. But, you know, it just didn't make sense to try to proceed. But the main reason was that the staff that was retained, have been redeployed, as was necessary in this crisis. I want to ask, unless there are other hands, I just want to ask Deputy Wright If she would address this and just get feedback from the Executive branch on this.

Dr. Evelyn Wright 73:10

Yeah, Manna and everyone. I appreciate the clarity that you're adding with this change. As Manna said, I think the Environment Department staff have been spending 95% of their time working on Project Resilience. And I'm just really in awe of what Amanda and her team have been able to create in such a short time. I think they are among the most capable people in the county staff as a whole. And it's just been really amazing to watch them work.

Dr. Evelyn Wright 73:42

But it has meant that they have not gotten even a starting point on implementing this. I think this all broke out about a week after Michelle arrived, maybe two weeks. So, I think the dates that you've laid out are really clear and will be achievable. I appreciate it.

Chairwoman Greene 74:07

So, this is setting a public hearing. Everything else is very much the same. But it's giving the staff breathing room, the businesses some breathing room. And, you know, a chance to adjust. And we don't even know if all those businesses will come back. We certainly hope that they do. But, you know, giving six months breathing room I think makes a lot of sense.

Chairwoman Greene 74:40

So, is there any other discussion before we call the question on holding, setting the public hearing?

Chairwoman Greene 74:50

I want to point out there's going to be a little overlap, because setting the public hearing in June, means that we vote in July, but the Executive has power to authorize you know a very short deferment. But we wanted to be sure that the law, made sense in terms of the history that we're living through.

Chairwoman Greene 75:17

Any comments from attorney Gordon and or staff? I think everything is covered. Legislator Bartels and I kind of went over it with a fine-tooth comb. And she straightened me out on a few things I was unclear on, even though I have authored and sponsored.

Chairwoman Greene 75:46

All right, if that's... Hearing no other questions or concerns, I would like to call the vote on it. I believe it's Resolution Number 152. All in favor?

Committee members 76:01

Aye. Aye. Aye.

Chairwoman Greene 76:04

Any opposed?

Chairwoman Greene 76:05

The motion carries to set a public hearing

Jay Mahler 76:08

And it's 192.

Chairwoman Greene 76:13

And now let's see. Is there any new business?

Chairwoman Greene 76:19

And then, in terms of old business.

Chairwoman Greene 76:24

The Solid Planning Commission has not met. But we certainly will want to convene a meeting as soon as there is a document to consider. That is one of the main purposes of that commission. Fawn, would you remind me, do you need to fill some seats? Or, I think we did. But I know we did the Climate Smart. I'm not sure about Solid Waste Planning.

Fawn Tantillo 76:53

I'm not sure about Solid Waste Planning either. And I know that people have left other... We lost someone on Recycling Oversight. We had some openings there. But I'm not, I'll have to look it up. I can't remember off the top of my head.

Chairwoman Greene 77:06

Okay, so let's prepare that for next month. If we do need to make appointments to both Recycling Oversight and Solid Waste Planning because those documents are going to be in front of us, fairly soon.

Chairwoman Greene 77:29

Then, the other is Climate Smart. And we actually did hold a Climate Smart, a virtual Climate Smart meeting. And one of the things that still outstanding is, and this is just by way of reminder, for Legislator Bartels and anybody else who is participating, there is still real interest in working with the Ulster County Fair.

Chairwoman Greene 78:03

We don't know yet what things will be like by August. But if there is a virtual meeting that we could join and start that conversation, I know that there are folks on the Climate Smart committee that would like to help the Fair move to zero waste in ways that are practical and valuable in terms of the model that I set, and for the educational value.

Chairwoman Greene 78:38

The other thing that I'd like to report that there's a subcommittee, the Climate committee, a group of people that are formed to investigate Community Choice Aggregation. Different. I'm going to ask that people. Yeah, I guess, everybody's muted. Anyway, that...

Chairwoman Greene 79:08

Lost my train of thought, sorry.

Chairwoman Greene 79:14

Oh, Community Choice Aggregation. And there have been the people in Ulster County, that are interested in this. I know New Paltz, and Marlboro, Marbletown, already are moving in that direction, or have moved in that direction. But Saugerties, Gardiner, and several other communities are very interested in pursuing it.

Chairwoman Greene 79:44

So, there was a meeting with the folks who are working on this up in the Capital District, which is many municipalities working together.

Chairwoman Greene 79:54

And also, this month, there was a meeting with the folks from Westchester, who have formed an alliance of municipalities, called Sustainable Westchester, and they actively have a CCA with Joule Energy.

Chairwoman Greene 80:15

The one up in Albany is with MEGA (MEGA Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance), which is basically a state agency, and there is a third company.

Chairwoman Greene 80:24

And they're doing some wonderful sharing of information and identifying problems with the existing CCA legislation. Enabling legislation. That, you know, if folks from Westchester, Ulster County and the Capital District, have a meeting with the Public Service Commission in NYSEERDA. It could be very productive in removing those obstacles.

Chairwoman Greene 80:58

And I really want to commend that effort because instead of just jumping into a decision, these municipalities are really weighing what's best for their municipality and learning from each other.

Chairwoman Greene 81:13

So, you know, it's Susan Gillespie from Citizens for Local Power who has kind of stepped up to spearhead that. And is really doing a great job of documenting what they're learning so that if new municipalities start to consider Community Choice Aggregation as a way of empowering the municipality to take control of their energy future, that information will be readily available.

Chairwoman Greene 81:48

Any other old business?

Chairwoman Greene 81:53

Hearing none, I would be delighted at 7:39 to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Chairwoman Greene 82:06

So moved by Legislator Bruno and seconded by Legislator Petit.

Chairwoman Greene 82:11

All in favor?

Committee members 82:12

Aye.

Chairwoman Greene 82:14

Thank you. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Greene 82:16

And thank you to the staff for being so helpful, and to all of our guests.

Bruno 82:22

Yeah, thanks so much for the help before. Appreciate it.

Chairwoman Greene 82:26

Thank you.

Dr. Evelyn Wright 82:27

Good night everyone.

Legislator Criswell 82:28

Stay healthy.

Legislator Bruno 82:31

Take care everybody.