

**Energy & Environment Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** September 6, 2018; 6:00  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, COB, Kingston, NY  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Mary Wawro  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Tracey Bartels, Manna Jo Greene and Joseph Maloney  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Brian Woltman

**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators James Maloney, Kathy Nolan and Laura Petit; Dennis Doyle and Christopher White, UC Planning Department; Tim DeGraff, Controller, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Dago Meraz, Meraz Motors; Mark Palmer, Village Coffee & Goods; John Grossbohlin, City of Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Committee; Emily Flynn, Bike Friendly Kingston; Nice Mercurio, Trails; Lee Kalish and Tania Trowbridge Kingston Greenline; Kevin Smith and Maxanne Resnick, Woodstock Conservancy/Friends of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail; Dare Thompson, League of Women Voters; Stephan Leibowitz, Revolution Bicycles; Frank Waters, Kingston Land Trust; Tyrone Wilson, Kortnee Simmons, Harambee; Margo Becker, Ulster County Environmental Management Council.

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Motion No. 1:** To Approve the Minutes August 2, 2018  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Greene  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Joseph Maloney  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Joseph Maloney  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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Mr. DeGraff shared copies of the UCRRA proposed budget for 2019 and discussed the details.

Legislator Bartels asked for copies of the actual budget figure for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 year to date. She questioned the budget for Recycling Education / Advertising and said she would like to see how that money was being spent. She would like to see a more robust plan for providing education and discussed the growing need for enforcement of the Mandatory Recycling law.

Legislator Petit discussed concerns about a recent UCRRA announcement regarding recycling. She feels there is a need for guidance as the agency discontinues taking single stream recycling and discussed other limits they have imposed on plastic and other materials they previously accepted for recycling.

Legislator Greene attended the last UCRRA Board meeting where they discussed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation letter regarding the agency's 2011 Solid Waste Management Plan. The DEC gave the agency 60 days to provide additional information. The UCRRA board requested a 1 year extension to allow them to include potential plans to form a single solid waste authority with Green and Sullivan Counties currently under consideration.

Legislator Greene warned that with only 3 years until the Seneca Meadows landfill is scheduled to close there is not much time to plan, finance and build an alternative.

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**Motion No. 2:** To discuss Resolution No. 265 - Requesting That The New York State Assembly And New York State Senate Introduce Legislation Amending New York Public Authorities Law Article 8, Title 13 G, Section 2050-t (3) To Include Recycling Material

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would request that New York State gives Ulster County the authority to manage recycling materials through an update to the original legislation that enabled Ulster County to create the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

**Motion By:** Legislator Joseph Maloney

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels has not had an opportunity to meet with the Town Supervisors to discuss their concerns with this resolution. She said she would pull the resolution until she could meet with them to avoid any misunderstandings.

**Disposition:** No Action Taken

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**Motion No. 3:** To Amend Resolution No. 283 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2018, A Local Law Promoting The Use Of Reusable Bags And Regulating The Use Of Plastic Carryout Bags And Recyclable Paper Carryout Bags

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution would approve and implement Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2018.

**Motion By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Joseph Maloney

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels discussed an amendment to include the committee's findings that that its approval will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. She thanked Planning Director Doyle for his assistance in preparing the SEQR documentation.

Legislator James Maloney distributed a map of a 650ft section of Lucas Avenue that identified several businesses. He expressed concern for equity and fairness and pointed out that some businesses in just this small area would need to comply while others would not.

Legislator James Maloney was not in favor of charging a 5 cent fee for paper bags; he felt that a Financial Impact of only \$600 for advertising was inadequate because a staff of 3 or 4 people would be required to enforce this law.

Legislator Bartels explained that convenience stores would be required to comply with the law. She pointed out that the executive would need to determine how to implement the law and would budget accordingly.

Legislator Joseph Maloney reminded the committee that Suffolk County had implemented a similar law and did not require additional staff. He was confident that businesses and the public would self-enforce the law.

**Voting on the Amendment:** Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Joseph Maloney  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

**Voting on the Resolution as Amended:** Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Joseph Maloney  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 4:** To approve Resolution No. 359 - Amending Capital Project No. 519 – UCLEC Energy Upgrades To Complete A NYSERDA Flex Tech Energy Study – Department Of Public Works

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would amend Capital Project No. 519 regarding energy upgrades at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center by increasing the budget for the project from \$250,000 to \$281,000, an increase of \$31,000.

**Motion By:** Legislator Greene  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** The committee had a brief discussion regarding the energy upgrades this will involve.

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Joseph Maloney  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 5:** To discuss Resolution No. 362 - Adopting and Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 17 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For Interim Public Safety Improvement Project- Track Removal Along The Former Ulster & Delaware Corridor In Kingston

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would adopt and issue a Negative Declaration under SEQRA, advance the Interim Public Safety Improvement Project, approve the removal of rail road tracks in an area designated to become part of the Ulster County Midtown Linear Park in the City of Kingston and ultimately allow the .35 mile segment between Downs Street and the underpass at I-587 to be patrolled by law enforcement.

**Motion By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Joseph Maloney

**Discussion:** Chairman Wawro asked Mr. White to explain the plans.

Mr. White describe the removal of rail road tracks in a 3-block area that is less than half of the property designated to become part of the Kingston City Linear Park. While it is only .35 miles of track, the area has been a blight on the community for many years with mattresses and other debris being dumped, individuals taking drugs and other unsavory activity including a recent death. For the safety of both the neighborhood and the police, the City of Kingston has requested removal of the tracks in this section to allow police and other first response vehicles to access this area.

More than a dozen neighbors and concerned citizens were at this meeting to support this resolution.

Legislator Greene said she received several calls requesting that the tracks be left in place and covered. She did not want to compromise the safety of the neighborhood but wanted to allow Rail road planners hired by CMRR to finish their feasibility study for a possible freight operation in this area. She requested the resolution be postponed until a meeting of the Trail and Rail Advisory Committee could be scheduled to discuss these issues in more detail with stakeholders.

**Motion to Postpone Made By:** Legislator Greene  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Joseph Maloney

**Discussion:** Legislator Joseph Maloney expressed concern for homeless individuals living on in and around the underpass and wanted to know where they would live if the tracks were removed.

Mr. White explained that the addition of lights and cameras in this area had reduced the homeless in the area but there were still issues with dumping and drug use the community needed to be addressed. He repeated the safety concerns.

Mr. White distributed a June 6, 2016 letter from Barton & Loguidice Engineers (B&L) regarding Asphalt Pavement Constructed over Steel Rail, Ballast and RR Tie Infrastructure that detailed the problems associated with paving over tracks in this area.

Legislator James Maloney pointed out that beyond Cornell Street buildings were now constructed upon the area that was once the railroad right of way, effectively removing any possibility of future rail road operations. He felt the safety concerns of the neighborhood made any delays problematic.

Legislator Nolan pointed out that the B&L letter discussed the need for drainage improvements and other work due to lack of maintenance and simply covering the track in this area was impractical.

<b>Voting to Postpone:</b>	Legislators Greene and Joseph Maloney
<b>Voting Against:</b>	Legislators Wawro and Bartels
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	2
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	2
<b>Disposition:</b>	Failed

### Voting on the Resolution

<b>Voting in Favor:</b>	Legislator Bartels
<b>Voting Against:</b>	Legislators Wawro, Greene and Joseph Maloney
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	1
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	3
<b>Disposition:</b>	Failed

### New Business

- **US Army Corp of Engineers proposed East River storm surge barriers**  
The committee discussed concerns regarding the proposed barriers and a Memorializing Letter being circulated on behalf of Legislator Petit to extend the comment period in order to allow proper vetting.
- **Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP)** – Legislator Bartels described a presentation by Adam Doan regarding the AWSMP that demonstrated how various stream improvement initiatives will mitigate future flooding and led to overall water quality improvement. She hoped to arrange a presentation for the Legislature.
- **Composting and Food Recovery** – Legislator Petit discussed the work 5 individuals are accomplishing with a food recovery program in cooperation with Sodexo at SUNY New Paltz. Last year they provided 9 tons of food to homeless shelters.

The committee discussed how to encourage a food recovery programs and how it benefits the business and those that receive the food. They also discussed potential programs to deal with organics including food recovery and composting. They will look at examples from other areas.

### Old Business

- **Climate Smart Committee** – Legislator Greene gave an update of the Green Business Challenge. On September 18, they are planning a training in the Legislative Chambers from 6 to 8 pm to focus on incentives and financing to explain it to the trainers. Ulster County was invited to make a presentation at the New York State Association of Counties regarding the Green Business Challenge and other CSC projects.
- **Recycling Oversight Committee** - Legislator Wawro reminded the committee that in the past the Recycling Oversight Committee had a problem achieving a quorum for meetings and suggested they might want to reduce the size of the committee down from 11 members.

The committee discussed several options, briefly reviewed the applications they received to date, planned how to reach out to various stakeholders and how to ensure representation from all areas of the county. A special meeting of the committee was scheduled for September 27 at 6:00 to conduct interviews.

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, hearing none

**Motion to Adjourn**

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Greene
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Joseph Maloney
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Time:</b>	8:30 pm
<b>Respectfully submitted:</b>	Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
<b>Minutes Approved</b>	October 4, 2018