

**Energy & Environment Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 8, 2018; 6:00
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Mary Wawro
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Manna Jo Greene, Joseph Maloney and Brian Woltman
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Kathy Nolan

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at approximately 6:07 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes October 4, 2018 and October 22, 2018

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Joseph Maloney and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 2: to approve Resolution No. 382 - Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Resolution Summary: This resolution would appoint several members to the Recycling Oversight Committee

Motion By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislator Bartels wanted to continue to interview additional candidates for the At Large seats to encourage more geographic diversity on the committee.

Members discussed frustration getting applicants from different regions of the county and discussed various ways to publicize the openings on the committee including writing another press release, writing a letter to the editor from the committee and looking into public service announcements. They directed the clerk to draft a letter to the editor to circulate to the committee via email.

Legislator Woltman said that it was time to move on this and perhaps set a deadline for additional applicants. He felt it was rude to leave the individuals who were interviewed to keep the interview process open indefinitely.

Legislator Nolan suggested the committee fill the seats they can and continue to publicize the openings.

Motion No. 3. To amend Resolution No. 382 by adding the following individuals to the committee: Ryan Goodwin, Commercial/Industrial; Emily Hamilton, Multi Family Dwelling Interest; and JoAnn Myers, At Large.

Motion By: Legislator Greene

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion; None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Joseph Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment Approved

Voting on Resolution No. 382 as Amended

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Joseph Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

The committee discussed making the Legislative website more “user friendly” and the possibility of adding a staff person to focus on communications issues.

Motion No. 4: to discuss Resolution No. 400 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 20 Of 2018, A Local Law Requiring Restaurants And Fast Food Service Establishments Provide Plastic Beverage Straws Solely Upon Request

Resolution Summary: This resolution would approve and adopt proposed local law No. 20 of 2018 establishing a requirement that local restaurants and food establishments ask patrons if they want a straw before providing one.

Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: Legislator Bartles asked to be added as a sponsor.

Motion No. 5 : to Amend Section 1. Legislative Intent and Findings, second paragraph as follows: “~~Over 500,000,000~~ **Millions** of plastic straws are used each day in the United States. This equates to ~~175 billions~~ **of** straws per year filtering into landfills and littering our waterways and oceans.”

Motion By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion; None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Joseph Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment Approved

Legislator Bartels discussed this resolution with Jordan Christensen of Citizens Campaign for the Environment who warned that passive distribution could have unintended consequences of customers taking handfuls of straws. Legislator Bartels felt that the requirement that straws be requested was a way to change behavior as people ask themselves “do I really need a straw.”

Legislator Woltman and Nolan favor passive distribution. Legislator Nolan suggested this could be allowed for non-plastic alternatives.

The committee discussed alternatives to plastic straws and while searching online noted that some alternatives are in such high demand that orders are backlogged up to 10 weeks.

The committee discussed other potential amendments to Proposed Local Law 20 including

- clarifying if the law only applied to plastic straws or to any and all straws
- changing the definition of beverage straws
- passive distribution of non-plastic straws
- clarifying if servers “shall ask” customers if they want a straw
- if drive-through service should be exempted
- changing the effective date.

Chairman Wawro is concerned that passing this so soon after the plastic bag ban may impact how businesses and the public react to both. She would prefer to approach the plastic straw issue as a partner with the businesses and provide businesses that have or are willing to eliminate plastic straws, with a door sticker as a badge of honor. She suggested that this could be expanded encourage them to eliminate other plastic utensils and other products with more environmentally friendly alternative.

Legislator Maloney suggested speaking to businesses that are already requiring customers to request straws rather than automatically including them to see what the impact on straw usage is. He wanted to work on additional amendments before moving forward with the resolution.

No Action was taken.

Motion No. 4: To discuss Resolution No. 471 - Amending Resolution No. 318 Dated September 15, 2015 To Conform To Agreement of Sale of County-Owned Real Property in the Town of Lloyd To The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation And Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Convey Such Parcel – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This resolution makes an amendment to a previous resolution associated with the transfer of a Parcel located off North Chodikee Lake Road in the Town of Lloyd from the County of Ulster to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the purchase price of \$178,5000.

Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislators questioned why no one from the Department of Finance was at this meeting to explain why this resolution was necessary.

Legislator Bartels reminded the committee of her involvement which lead to Resolution No. 318 of Sept 2015. Her goal at the time was to protect this property from development. She feels this is a good thing but would like assurances that this property will remain wild and that the NYS DEC cannot sell it for development without first offering it back to Ulster County.

The committee had many questions about why this amendment was needed to complete the transaction approved in 2015.

Motion to Postpone

Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: The committee discussed questions they had about this amendment and recognized that they would not be able to get the answers tonight.

Legislator Maloney suggested that postponing it until their questions were answered would be prudent.

The committee agreed that if it is time sensitive they could schedule a special meeting.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Joseph Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Postponed

New Business: Legislator Nolan announced that Sharon Rowe author of “the Magic of Tiny Businesses” will be speaking at an event at Bring Your Own in Woodstock on Saturday November 17 at 4:30.

Climate Smart: Legislator Greene gave an update on the Green Business Challenge. She spoke on November 4 at the Rondout Business Association. She will be presenting at the SUNY Ulster on Saturday November 10 in the Student Lounge.

Legislator Greene is continuing discussion with the County Executive regarding how to move forward with the Green Business Challenge next year. She may be offering a budget amendment.

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By:	Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Bartels
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Time:	7:48 pm
Respectfully submitted:	Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved	December 6, 2018