

**Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: July 7 2022; 6:30 PM or immediately following the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 898 2988 0884
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Gina Hansut, Phil Erner, and Joseph Maloney (left)
ABSENT: Legislator Eric Stewart
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Kathy Nolan; Deputy Executive Marc Rider; Dave Haldeman; Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC); Nick Hvozda, Director of Department of Environment; Dr. Kathleen Beinkafner, UCRRA Board; Caylin Sanders, Matt Colangelo; Ellen DiFalco;

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and asked Legislator Hansut to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to APPROVE the Minutes of June 9, 2022**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: (See transcript)

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Chair Greene introduced Legislator Nolan to speak about Resolution No. 324 which she sponsored.

After the presentation the committee discussed the application of pesticides and herbicides by the state and the local law limiting application of pesticides and herbicides by Ulster County.

Motion No. 2. Directing the committee clerk to email a letter on behalf of the committee to local municipalities in the county to request their use of herbicides or pesticides.

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: (See transcript)

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Motion APPROVED**

Chair Greene said she would like to consider Resolution No. 324 out of order.

Resolution No. 342 - Supporting New York State Senate Bill S699D And New York State Assembly Bill A7429A, The New York State Birds And Bees Protection Act

Resolution Summary: This resolution supports and encourage advancement of S699D / A7429A, banning neonic-treated corn, soybean, and wheat seeds and most outdoor, non-agricultural uses of neonicotinoid insecticide

Motion No. 3: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 342**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Dr. Beinkafner gave an update for the UCRRA. They began a search for a new Executive Director; they are doing a waste audit with SUNY Stonybrook Data and Analysis Center; they are working on a grant proposal to create a partnership with local municipal recycling drop off centers to collect food scraps; she reported on the June 26th Household Hazardous Waste Collection event serving 249 residents; the next HHW event is August 20, 2022; she shared that the local Herzogs's Home Center and any Sherwin William's dealers are now accepting up to five gallons of paint for recycling; she reported on various community engagements and collaborations.

The committee discussed current reuse and recycling efforts at the UCRRA; plans for the implementing Zero waste programs and plans for the Reuse Innovation Center.

Director of the Department of Environment Nick Hvozda gave updates on the implementation of the Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act; Green Business Champions program, and work with stakeholders for the proposed Reuse Innovation Center and the environmental consideration checklist used for Capital Projects.

Legislator Maloney stated that a study of current recycling practices at the UCRRA was overdue. He was disappointed that the type of study promised by then acting Director Tim DeGraff has not yet materialized and warned this lack of information may be an impediment to plans for a future Reuse

Innovation Center operation that would require these materials be separated before reaching the Reuse Center.

The committee discussed t and

Chair Greene requested the Department of Environment encouraging Green Business Champions to participate in the Ulster County Fair Climate Smart Efforts and to get a report on what the Ulster County Fair has been doing to divert waste.

Dave Haldeman EMC reported on a presentation about sustainability in the Catskill Park and local townships due to the growing popularity of trails and other recreation. He said there was a critical need for additional parking and public restrooms. He noted the EMC had a request by Legislator Erner to take a look at the County's Open Space plan.

Resolution No. 341 - Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program - Establishing Capital Project No. 642 - ARPA Homeowner Energy Improvements And Job Training Project - Amending 2022 Capital Fund Budget - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Budget by establishing Capital Project No. 642 for \$500,000 using Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding,

Motion No. 4: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 341**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See Transcript

Motion No. 5: **Motion to AMMEND Resolution No. 341** in the 5th WHEREAS change the word "Citizen's" to "Communities"

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendment APPROVED**

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED as AMMENDED**

Chair Greene and Legislator Hansut aske to be added as sponsors of Resolution 341

Resolution No. 345 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2022 by the Ulster County Legislature, and, pending the approval of the County Executive. This law will increase the green fleet minimum from 5% to 20% by 2025

Motion No. 6: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 345**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, and Erner
Voting Against: Legislator Maloney
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 351 - Authorizing The Department Of Planning To Submit An Application To The New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program For Renewable Energy Equipment At The Golden Hill Housing Site – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Ulster County Planning Department to submit an online application through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application to the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program for renewable energy at the Golden Hill low-income housing site for up to the category maximum of \$2,000,000 with match to come from Pennrose.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 351**
Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Motion No. Motion to POSTPONE to a special meeting on July 19, 2022 at 5:00.

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 352 - Authorizing The Department Of The Environment To Submit An Application To The New York State Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Grant Program For Water Quality Projects – Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary – This resolution authorizes the Director of the Ulster County Department of the Environment to submit an online application through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application to the New York State Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Grant Program Salt Storage project type for improvements and upgrades to Ulster County salt storage facilities up to the grant category maximum award of \$500,000 and to submit an online application through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application to the New York State Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Grant Program Aquatic Connectivity Restoration project type for a road stream crossing replacement project up to the grant category maximum award of \$250,000

Motion No. 8: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 352**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut and Maloney

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

New Business

Central Hudson training facility in the Town of Ulster has created neighborhood concerns regarding drainage and contamination that is impacting the area including the Esopus Creek and CSX tracks.

Deputy Executive Rider offered to have Ulster County Public Works engineers evaluate culvert sizes and see if they can coordinate a public meeting an inspections by DPW and FRA who have enforcement jurisdiction. He also suggested UC Department of Health could do well testing. Legislator Maloney offered to provide a list of residents in the area for well testing.

Legislator Erner later suggested the county legislature consider going further and creating a more formal role when these local concerns are raised.

Reuse Innovation Center Planning Study RFP – Chair Greene said the Department of Environment was seeking a representative from the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee to review the RFP submissions.

Motion No. 9: **Motion to APPOINT Chair Manna Jo Greene as a representative of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee to review the RFP submissions for the Reuse Innovation Center Planning Study**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Motion APPROVED**

Old Business

Climate Smart Committee has changed their August meeting to the fifth Monday, August 29th, to sponsor a Climate Smart Community Summit in cooperation with the Department of Environment at the Rosendale Rec Center from 5 to 8 pm.

Industrial Development Agency Legislator Erner reported the IDA has not acted on the application for a PILOT from the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE). Chair Greene reported a discussion she and Legislator Petit had with IDA members requesting they give higher ranking for sustainability which includes climate solutions but didn't know if the IDA acted on that yet.

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

Motion to Adjourn
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 9:23 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: August 4, 2022

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Chair Manna Jo Greene

I'm going to call the July 7 2022. Meeting the Energy and Environment and Sustainability Committee to order and ask if the clerk would kindly Call the roll.

Fawn Tantillo

Manna Jo Greene.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Present.

Fawn Tantillo

Gina Hansut.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Present

Fawn Tantillo

Phil Erner.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Joseph Maloney

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Here.

Fawn Tantillo

Eric Stewart is not with us tonight. You have a quorum Madam Chair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Um, would someone like to volunteer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance?

Legislator Gina Hansut

I would be happy to do it, Madam Chair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

You'd be most welcome. Thank you.

Legislator Gina Hansut

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.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Sadly, we have yet another week of tragedy to just remember and acknowledge it's seems endless these days. Okay. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes of the last Energy and Environment Committee meeting of June 9?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Motion? Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, I saw I saw Gina's hand. And I heard I think Phil's voice. I did. It was Joe. Joe's good.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Either way.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh, good. Okay. And now, I'd like to ask I think I believe I saw Katherine Beinkafner, Chair of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. Dr. Beinkafner. Do you want to give us an update? Please?

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Did you want Kathy Nolan to go first?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

That would be okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, yes, I was going to put her first on the resolutions. But just to be on the safe side. Thank you for reminding me and Legislator Nolan, And you please remind us which resolution you want to speak to. And we'll take your comments and then move on.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you very much, Chair Greene, and Dr. Beinkafner. The resolution is Resolution 342. Basically, a memorializing resolution to support The Birds and Bees Protection Act at the New York State level. People may know this act, it focuses on removing neonicotinoid insecticides from corn, soy and wheat seeds. Based on information done in our very large study by Cornell, showing that farmers would not be harmed financially by the removal of those insecticides. They the insecticides are admit, go in with the seeds prophylactically. So, they're often going into healthy fields, and they can contaminate the fields, with the insecticide enough to sterilize the soil, which is not good for growing. Pollinators are severely limited in New York State, the hits the orchard crops the most. And we're starting to see effects in all animal species near heavily treated fields, particularly important in in insect feeding birds. And we're also seeing evidence in other animals such as fish populations around the world near these fields that have been treated with these chemicals. And in large mammals in the United States where white tailed deer have been shown to have stunted and, in some cases, malformed a young. There also are some worrisome case control studies for possible impacts in humans. And the chemicals bio accumulate year after year because of their long half-life. They will actually degrade and go away if we stop using them and getting them off these saturated seeds removes probably 80 to 90% of their use in New York State.

Their, the Senate, passed a bill to ban those particular uses. And the last year, and this year the Assembly passed a bill to, to that same effect. But they had some slight differences in language in terms of what to do if farmers had trouble getting seeds that were not coated with the insecticide. And so, the, it took a long time to get a what's called a "same as" where the language in the Assembly bill is the same as the language in the Senate. We've now achieved that, but it didn't happen in a way that let it get out of committee before the end of the term in the spring. And so, we are putting on doing everything we can to get this out of committee in the fall and get it passed. And then if we need to make adjustments to the mechanisms that the Senate wasn't happy with, and then the assembly wasn't happy with, we can do that.

So, I did bring this resolution to the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District board to ask if they saw problems for farmers in Ulster County from adopting it, there were no criticisms or concerns. So, I think that we should have broad support for this. I'm not sure how much neonicotinoid coated seed is used in Ulster County, if any that's one of the things I'm trying to find out.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions or I'm going to actually ask that we I will take a motion for discussion on Resolution 242 so that what while legislator Nolan is here you can take action.

Legislator Phil Erner

So moved.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner. Second? Legislator...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Joe or Gina.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Gina raised her hand.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And I see that legislator Maloney has his hand up. So, I'm assuming that's a fresh hand from earlier. Okay.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, I actually think pesticides, have more involvement with cancers and autoimmune diseases and a lot of other things than we know and the entire country is going... waited way too long to do something about it. The only issue I have with this is you know how little unfortunately, some of these memorializing resolutions do to move the meter. Why not make it in Ulster County Law? I think that would speak to Albany. I think you'd have the votes. If the experts in Ulster County are saying it wouldn't hurt, we could do it here and Ulster County, even if there are a few outliers still using it. It's something I bet you we could check into an enforce. Why not make it an actual Ulster County resolution? I think that would speak to Albany, way more than a memorializing resolution. And I think you'd have the support to do it.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Let me reply.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, please. Yeah.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So, we could look into that, uh, we think we, we thought we were gonna have passed this spring, and then it would address all of New York State and many places in New York State use a lot more of this insecticide than then we these this class of insecticides than we do. But it's a fair point. And we could look into it. We did have questions about whether even state law was superseded by federal law on this. So, it we might run into problems or whether a county can do that. But I, especially since it stalled this spring, when we thought it was gonna go forward. I think that's a reasonable approach and I'm happy to ask some of the lawyers involved with the coalition working on this to look into that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. And I will say that many laws, particularly around waste issues, but many other issues that became state law... In Ulster County, Bring your Own Bag and the composting or Food Waste Diversion, etc. Any other.. yes, Legislator Erner, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I'm a sponsor this as well. I, I,... As often is the case, I think we need to go farther. And one way we might be able to do that is on the county level. And so that's one of the topics I have under, under new business at the end of the meeting.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I will say that the Ulster County already has a policy in regard to its own properties of not using these sorts of insecticides, in fact, insecticides and herbicides in general. So, Ulster County is already there with our own properties, when... whether we can extend this to private property in Ulster County, is the question. We do think that the memorializing resolutions will be, will have an impact. We are seeking to get them in many of the counties that have legislators who were kind of on the fence about this. And we don't, we don't need many votes, the bill did pass in both houses. So, it's a question of really just showing that the public wants the bill to get out of committee come to a vote again, in the now "same as" version and then go to the governor's desk. So, it's very, very close to being a statewide ban with a lot of research that has gone into it to support it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I do have a question. Just to shake my memory for the Ulster County laws that just glyphosate or is it all pesticides?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I believe that it's all herbicides, and there are provisions to get it an exemption. Um, but I believe all herbicides are not used on county grounds. And the pesticides, I think is part of the green. The green building pro proposal we have we hire a company that only uses green products. And I guess that goes to our landscaping as well. Do you know further Marc? Executive Rider?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I believe that's the case. I know. Definitely the herbicides. I mean, because we've seen applications for exemptions from CMRR and other organizations. So, the herbicides is definitely true, I believe the pesticides has to do with the buildings.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And the reason I ask is that I am seeing you know, for a while for roadside vegetation. If I recall the county actually cutting but not spraying, and I'm starting to see and get complaints of you know, we're we're, you see the vegetation is in place, but it's turned brown. And I haven't been careful about whether those are town roads or county roads to distinguish that, but is there a way a good way to direct people? Or if I have a concern myself? Where, where should that go?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

You can send it to me. And I'll get it to our you know, or you can send it to Commissioner Masterson as well, but okay, either way, I mean, we're not spraying so it's likely either a state or a town road.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Right?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

This the state still does use herbicides. We've tried to work with them on it. But they insist that the amount of roads that they have doesn't allow them to just rely on mechanical. We did get clarity with the Department of Public Works when I was in the legislature previously, and we pass the Ulster County as a "Pollinator Friendly" county law, that the DPW was not using pesticides or herbicides. And they were using mechanical, and they were open to actually trying to adjust the timing of the mechanical clearance of the side of the roads to protect the pollinating plants. There's still some work to go back and do on that. And so maybe in collaboration with members of this committee, we can work on that as the summer goes along.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Manna, I could I make a quick suggestion. Question.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Could we have Fawn, on behalf of our committee, send out an email to every municipality in the county that has a highway department and ask if they still are using pesticides or have they gone completely mechanical and by next month? We could have a list of any and all municipalities at that point we could have a discussion because we can govern them with a resolution. Obviously, we can't tell the state to stop doing it in our county. But if five or six municipalities, maybe we could talk them out of it, urge them out of it or set up a county law and stop that, as well, because there's probably more municipal cared for roads than even county roads in this county. So, we may not have done as much as we wanted to do with that can be interesting to see. It's pretty easy to do as anybody on the on the committee, not into us sending a request a question out to every municipality in the town wouldn't take long, right, Fawn?

Legislator Phil Erner

I'd sign that letter?

Legislator Gina Hansut

That's fine.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay. I don't even think it's something we have to sign. We could just if we all just say, Okay, I think we could send that, Fawn could send that out

Fawn Tantillo

On behalf of the committee.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah. And follow up. If you don't get a response, follow up a couple of times. And then by next month, if we don't know about town of Lloyd, you know, we'll have three requests to know and next to their, their name.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, um, I think that probably we make a motion to request and, and, Fawn, I want to congratulate the legislative staff. I believe Chelsea Villalba is now helping again, is that the case?

Fawn Tantillo

I believe she might be soon. I'm not sure that's an announcement that I'm authorized to make.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. But I was thinking that, you know, she'd be really good at following up if we would be, you know,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll make a motion to send a letter on behalf of our committee and our Chair Manna Jo Greene to every municipality in the county that has a highway department request, whether they use herbicides or pesticides.

Legislator Gina Hansut

And I'll second that

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All in favor, signify by raising your hand and or saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Anybody opposed? Motion carries. And I think that's a good step in the right direction. Great.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

And one more thing on the Resolution 342. Or, actually, I guess related to this is that there are several municipalities in Ulster County that have taken proactive action to protect pollinators, including

Marbletown and Woodstock. New Paltz has at the University and has pollinator fields. So, there's a lot of very good pollinator support going around Ulster County, at the municipal level and at university schools and businesses.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

So, um, you know, I think we never resolved... we, we opened Resolution 342, for discussion. But I think while we're on the topic, we should resolve the memorializing resolution. So I'd like to call the question unless there's any further discussion. Okay. All in favor of resolution 342 - Supporting New York State bill. S 699. D. And New York State. That's the Senate bill in the Senate, Assembly Bill A 7429. A.- The New York State Birds and Bees Protection Act. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Okay, the motion carries. And I had to go to the eye doctor earlier. And so my pupils are still dilated, and it's hard to read. So, bear with me.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Very welcome.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you for the discussion and the support.

Fawn Tantillo

And I can read resolutions for you, if you'd like, Madam Chair, when we get there.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, let's, at this point, go back to the reports unless somebody has an objection. And Dr. Beinkafner, if you would give us an update from the UCRRA, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Okay, I have quite a few items. So, I'm just going to read them because it'll be more efficient than blathering on.

So, we've started the executive director job search. The board is actively searching for the agency's next executive director. The position is being advertised on Solid Waste Association job boards through the Solid Waste Association of North America, the New York State Association and Recycling, United States Composting Council and in many other ways, and we actually started interviewing this week for the position.

SUNY Stony Brook is going to be doing a waste audit. The agency is participating in a waste audit studying being conducted by SUNY Stony Brook waste Data and Analysis Center. The study seeks to understand disposal patterns and waste composition of municipal solid waste and recycling streams across New York state. The researchers will visit the agency once per year over the next five years and sample insert trash and recycling. We expect the research team to come again this August, we're very interested in the data they'll be collecting. No summary is available yet as the study is ongoing. But I know that that relates to the thing the Department of the Environment has been working on the Reuse Center. But we aren't going to have these results available in time for that project.

Um, Municipal Composting Pilot Project. New York state recently announced a new funding source available to increase residential food scrap recycling programs, the director of sustainability that would be Angelina is working on a grant proposal that would create new programs and partnerships to collect food scraps at Ulster County Municipal recycling drop off centers. And we'll be hosting an informational meeting later this month to identify towns that wish to participate in the pilot project. So, she's actually working on applying for a grant. But in the meantime, we're going to try to seek some buy in from some of the local towns because the location for pickup of the food scraps would be at the transfer stations. And we'd have like a trailer there. So, people could bring their food scraps, put it in the buckets inside the trailer. And then on the appointed day, I think the town would be asked to bring the trailer to UCRRA, but it's, it's a project we're working on. So, I can tell you that that's actually what's going to happen.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). The agency held its second HHW collection program of the year on June 26. This was our first paint care collection. We're now able to accept latex paint thanks to a statewide law that establishes a product stewardship program for various paints and architectural coatings. A total of 249 residents participated in the event and the event was very, very successful thanks to the team's coordination and planning and the excellent vendor Clean Harbors. We were sold out actually all the time slots we had available were taken up. Our next household hazardous waste program is scheduled for August 20. And registration is open now for that you have to sign up for a time slot. And also, if you have additional pain that you want to dispose of. My understanding is that the local Sherwin Williams and Herzog's home centered stores will actually accept up to five gallons per drop off at any time, no appointment minutes, no appointment necessary at their locations. So that's a pretty good thing for people to learn about.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Is that for water based and oil based?

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

It doesn't specify here what kinds of paint so I guess all paint. And apparently, new paid care in New York program was sent to the Town Supervisors and Mayor's on June 9.

Public Education - our recycling Outreach team has been doing outreach and community engagement through partnerships collaborations with various climate smart task forces, and various local schools and libraries. For the month of July the outreach topic will be a Plastic Free July Challenge, educating

about the impacts of plastic pollution, its recycling limitations and how to reduce your use of plastic. They installed an educational display about plastic pollution at the Gardiner Public Library and it will be up all month long and are looking for more locations to do public education displays. The team is partnering with libraries to teach children about ocean plastic, collaboration on the summer reading program theme Oceans of Possibilities. They will be at the Ellenville library on July 27; Rosendale library on July 21, they'll be hosting a booth at the Kingston Farmers Market on July 30. There are other campaigns are ongoing on the radio, print social media, and newsletter. So that's what our group has been up to. And any questions I could entertain them.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, Legislator Erner, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Dr. Beinkafner, thank you for your presentation, I'm pleased, especially to hear about the food scrap pickup proposal. That's something I've been hearing requests for expanding throughout our county. So, thank you.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

I think it'll be really good for residents, because I myself would be happy to do that. Although I have a compost bin, but I would be better at just taking it over to the transfer station. And I think it's gonna work out. Angelina is good at preparing proposals or grants. And I think she's gonna have it well worked out before we apply so that the questions are answered right there in our proposal.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. And if there are no other questions, I'd like to have one quick question. Oh, I'm sorry,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I think in a Recycling Oversight Committee. I had talked to Tim DeGraff, about the expansion of your sorting abilities. And the study that's going to need to be done to change the layout of the RFRA. And just by having as, as these loads are being dropped off, I guess you never used to call out and take the same look at the smaller loads, the regular residential loads, the smaller contractors, and now you've been able to divert quite a bit of material into the compost, into reusable piles, which is really decreased the amount of solid waste where we're sending off. And it's been a well-known thing for yours that if we really expanded, maybe brought in and spend a little money on some technology as well. But that ability, that we'd really be decreasing solid waste even more, which is one of the single biggest issues in the county for years. So, Tim DeGraff told me that he was on it, he did not need the legislature's help to fund this study to order this study, that the RRA was on this and it was going to be done soon. And I just let him know that I'm going to be asking about it twice a month and looking for updates. Because this, this, this the first thing the ordering a study is not that hard. And I think we're years past when this study should have been done to let us know, both the cost, and what it's going to look like over there, the RRA what it's going to take because there is going to be some serious construction needed and move some things around logistically as well. So, has the study been discussed over the last month since I've talked to Tim de Graaff? And how much further along are we than we were when Tim promised me he was on it.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

We've been discussing the possibility of having deliveries separated- the trash and garbage from the C&D materials construction and demolition materials. And we've been discussing whether to build a separate building, um, maybe use the existing building for the C&D and build a different building for our current stuff. Because what we do is we divert a lot of the stuff off that tipping floor. That's where we take out the air conditioners, that's where we take out propane tanks, all kinds of metal objects and things like that. And it's it's kind of a dangerous place because you have the big trucks dumping you have the big grapple picking up the material and dumping it over the wall into the truck waiting down below. And you've got people trying to remove stuff from the waste stream. So, I would we're thinking about trying to reinvent that building in terms of maybe some conveyor belts or some other way of getting the diverted materials out quickly, rather than a person having to lift it up and move it somewhere.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

See that? That thank you for that answer. But it kind of confuses me because I thought it was kind of settled that both RRA, the legislature, environmental groups, everyone kind of understood at this point, that part of this process would be bringing a firm, which we don't think would be Will that expensive expensive, that specializes and has worked with hundreds of transfer stations, and will logistically, you know, there's firms that come in when you have a parking lot, and they can show you how to lay out a parking lot have 80 more spots that was just done in Kingston, Saugerties is talking about doing it. Same exact thing here a little more complex, but there's firms that that is their expertise. And the last discussion I had with Tim DeGraff and Laura Petit and several others, it was kind of settled that the study is part of this process that that I never, I never heard anywhere along the line over the last few months, that we were just going to put our heads together and kind of figure this out. You know, it's far more complex than that. And I just and it's not that much money. And I was promised specifically by Tim to graph that this study was coming. And now I'm hearing that we're trying to we just spit balling ideas ourselves. This is what, because it's already taken way too long, we should have had this study. So I can't speak for

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

So, I can't speak for Tim, because I'm not him, I didn't make any promises, I'm just telling you what's been going on, he may have more plans in the works than I know about. We're also considering changing the traffic pattern. So that you don't have to come out where you come into the yard with the trucks. So, they would go out another way behind the office, and things like that. So, there's a lot that we're considering, but it takes time to work it out, and then just kind of it isn't going to happen instantly.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Well, it's never going to happen. Without the studies, the way that I understand when you bring in this firm, I think even the traffic that you're talking about would be something that you know, the engineers and whatnot involved with whatever firm you end up going with. But I just don't think this is something that Tim DeGraff and a couple of employees over at the, the RRA are I don't think that's their expertise. These kinds of logistics we're talking about - there are firms out there that give you kind of an overhead schematic of what your options are and what the different technologies you can bring in where you can

move this building, how you do it, even get a cost analysis, and I just politely frustrated that talking to Tim DeGraff he you know, just last month. It just sounds differently than what he's been doing for the last month after talking to me.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

So, I'm gonna jump in and suggest that Dr. Beinkafner take back your concern and your suggestion, I also want you to be aware and Director Nick Hvozda will be speaking to this in a minute that there is for the Reuse Innovation Center, there will be a firm that will be looking at the whole system and making recommendations not specifically what you're asking Joe. But um, and in addition, the Zero Waste Implementation Planning working group is also looking to bring on an expert in waste aversion planning. And that would include this, but I hear what you're saying.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Has that request gone out? Have we hired that firm? Has the request going out? Marc could tell me whether it's an RFP or an RFQ?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, the Reuse...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Are you talking about the Reuse Innovation...?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

The Innovation Center has gone out and let's let

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

...Due back tomorrow. But yeah, responses are due tomorrow.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

...talk about it. And the other is still in planning but we expect to be able to move the Zero Waste Plan through as professional services. And we don't know that yet. So, I'll report on that next month. So, if we can, Nick, we want to pick it up where, where we left off if you wouldn't mind. Director Hvozda.

Director Nick Hvozda

Thank you, Madam Chair. As Deputy Executive Rider said, the, the Reuse Innovation Center Planning Study is, we have, we're in the process of doing an RFP for that study. The, the proposals are due tomorrow, and then we'll be evaluating the proposals. The key thing one of the key assumptions we made in the RFP and what we intend to put in the scope of work for this project is that this will be a single facility that diverts waste from either the MSW or the C&D waste streams. One of the critical things that has to happen, I suppose another critical, critical assumption is we're assuming that the, the waste will be separated from the waste stream prior to arriving at the facility. This is where it ties into the work that I was doing about separating things at the tipping floor. Also, the work that municipal

transfer stations are doing around the county, and the work that nonprofit organizations like the Restore are doing. So, we are asking the consultant that we hire to identify what those waste streams are they have been separated, and then find out the ones that give us the biggest bang for the buck and then do something about it with this facility. That's the general...

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead. Legislator Maloney. I see your hand up.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, with what we're getting back from these proposals, you were saying is assuming that all the separating is done?

Director Nick Hvozda

Yeah. So, in asking for the planning study, asking to do the work on the planning study, we had to assume some boundaries around what this is type of facility would do. And one of those boundaries was, it's not going to take an MSW waste stream and have employees or machinery separated that the items will be separated into component parts before it arrives at the facility. For example, clean wood from C&D material. So, the clean wood would have been separated, it arrives at the reuse center. And then it's processed there and resold or reused somehow.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, some of some of this and what we're able to do, eventually there is going to revolve around what's going on over the era and our ability to store which is one of the big issues here, the room to store some of these materials that we're going to want to bring over to you. And that is part of what I was just saying before, we really have to get going over at the RRA for this all to work. And right now the RRA is not physically and logistically set up to be the partner, that we're just going out to RFP to build a small facility to use. So once again, we really need the RRA to get going on a real plan that's going to involve a study. This is all related. And we need to get going on it. This is taking too long. Thank you

Chair Manna Jo Greene

The last thing I want to say is just a reminder that the array does have adjacent property. And I'm sure the, the consultants hired for the Reuse Innovation Center. We'll take that into consideration. It's not the only property there are a lot of properties in Ulster County, that might be good candidates. But just, just to mention that, okay. Anything else on the RRA? Can, can we go over to Environmental Management, I mean, Department of Environment, anything else new that you have to report.

Director Nick Hvozda

The other items I have are related to the Zero-waste Annual Report that we submitted at the beginning of the month. The Reuse Innovation Planning Study was one of them but a couple of other high points of zero waste activities that the county has been doing. We develop procedures around and for implementation of the Food Waste Prevention And Recovery Act. Those guidelines are posted on the website. First cohort has been notified as of last year. And we reported on, on that progress earlier this year. The next round, which includes food waste generators, from whatever the maximum amount

could be all the way down to point seven five tons per week will be identified and notified in September of this year. That they will be regulated starting on January 1 of 2023. We implemented an environmental considerations checklist, which I believe the committee is familiar with from a resolution earlier this year. That is a checklist for capital projects that the county is executing. And a couple of items on that checklist relate to zero waste one of them asks capital project developers to review the intent of the resolution 451 of 2019, which is the zero-waste resolution for the county. The other one is to incorporate considerations for separation and diversion of C&D waste from, from demolition projects. And we're, we're working on developing best practices and contract language, etc for that going forward.

Director Nick Hvozda

And the last thing I have is our Green Business Champions program is moving along, we're continuing to get businesses coming into the program that has a couple of action items that are waste related. So we ask those who are getting certified as partner, or then leader or then champion to complete actions that are related to waste reduction, or green purchasing about things that will ultimately reduce waste. That's all I have on the report. Unless any questions

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead, Legislator Erner, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. And thank you, Director Hvozda, for your report. I, I unfortunately, I haven't had a chance to really study the environmental considerations checklist closely enough. But would you and your department be willing to advise us here in the legislature about adding, adding different things? We're considering some in new business later, for example, some additional regulations tonight, but could you advise us on, on additional considerations that we might want to add on that checklist in the future?

Director Nick Hvozda

The, the starting point for the checklist when we developed it was every environmental regulation or policy that the county has on the books that would apply to a capital project. So, that includes the waste items, Green Fleet, other things. There are a few other items that were added around energy efficiency and other items around fleet. But... So, those could be a start for further discussion. And then certainly any additional the intent of this checklist is that any additional policies or requirements that come into being will be added as part of the so to answer your question. I don't have a large list in mind, but we can certainly discuss it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I do have a question about let's see the Ulster County Fair is coming up. And they will be diverting some of the waste. But if, if there's any way we can, or your department can get a report on what they have been and what they're planning for this year. And the other thing I wanted to mention was the green business. It was "Challenge" and now it's say again,

Director Nick Hvozda

"Champions".

Chair Manna Jo Greene

“Champions”, yes. And we are trying to, “we” being the Climate Smart Committee, we are trying to encourage vendors that are using green building practices or have green building products to participate in the Ulster County Fair in what became called Climate Row in the main camp. And so, I believe Mike Darcy, was Michael Darcy was going to be looking into that. And just a reminder, maybe I know he, he was not feeling well, a few days ago. But if he's, you know, back, time is drawing nigh for the Ulster County Fair, which is August 2 through seventh and anybody on this call that would like to volunteer to help educate people on climate solutions is welcome to let me know and sign up. We could use help. And there will be nonprofits will have a double booth as well as the climate smart committee but we're also looking for vendors and any anything else from Department of Environment?

Director Nick Hvozda

Nothing else, Manna Jo.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. And thank you for your good work. And Environmental Management. Is Dave here or yes, there's Dave. Okay, great. Dave Haldeman, Chair of the Environmental Management Council.

Dave Haldeman

Thank you very much. Just very briefly. We have requested of DEC that we have a presentation on sustainable tourism in the Catskills at our last meeting, and McCray Burnham, who is the Catskill Park Coordinator did that presentation. And there's a lot of at least concern among our members of the popularity of the Catskills and then the overuse of particularly, particularly sites within the Catskills. For example, and I don't know the dates on these big groups, but Katterskills falls in the past only had about 30,000 visitors per year, but in most recent tabulations they had 200,000 per year. So, Mr. Burnham is focused on visitor use management, recreational infrastructure, and minimizing impacts on the environment. Big task is relatively new to it - six to nine months, it seems to have a good handle on it. I think they're working in particular on areas where there's heavy traffic to make sure there's adequate parking; there's adequate restrooms and other facilities; that is that adequate garbage facilities; that if trails need to be widened, so that people aren't making multiple different trails, to a particular area. They're looking at how to balance the needs of the natural environment, and the hunters and fishers with the numbers of outside visitors coming to the park was all discussed. It was a good presentation. And it's nice to know that they are much concerned about and looking into and trying ways, various ways to deal with the problems that were presented.

And other things that were mentioned. Legislative rep Erner had requested that we take a look at the county's open space plan. We discussed doing just that. It may take us several months, but we're going to take a look at it and see whether there's areas of concern that need to be addressed or updated.

Also, there was one town in which they had an interesting idea which presented to the board that with new construction, they're suggesting or highly recommending that the construction be a heat pump,

source of heating, cooling, and perhaps even taxing or adding an additional tax to those new facilities that do not choose to use. That was an interesting aspect. Other than that, that's all we have.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Any questions? Or comments? Legislator Erner, please?

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you very much, Mr. Haldeman for your presentation. And in terms of the parking and traffic and accommodating that, do you have a sense in terms of expanding public transit there? Do you think that we should go through our authority here in the county through UCAT? Or is that since it crosses county lines? Maybe the state needs to get involved? Or do you see that as potentially helping not having to expand parking areas and cutting down on traffic pollution and other problems?

Dave Haldeman

I believe that he actually did address that. And there is talk about busing and having shuttles inserted at highly use locations. So that is in the works. It's being discussed.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you,

Fawn Tantillo

Madam Chair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please.

Fawn Tantillo

I also think this is timely for the Economic Development Committee. The other night Lisa Berger made a presentation on tourism, and in all of our print ads and online presence this year, they had I have a whole section that's on a lot of that, that says "Leave No Trace" that talks about people, you know, tourists and residents, you know, no matter what kind of tourists they are being courteous to our environment and watching what they do with their waste and you know, how they behave when they're here. So, it's a, it's a really nice advertising that they, that tourism has put in all their new all of their new publications.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Hopefully they recycled the books, five minutes after looking at them.

Fawn Tantillo

We haven't printed them in a couple of years. It's the first time we're reprinting them in a while. I don't think we've printed them since 2020.

Fawn Tantillo

Manna, your muted.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

At revival and the Ulster County Fair, we would have, you know, big cardboard boxes for people to put any kind of paper in on the way out that they didn't want to hold on to. Anyway. If we're complete, I'd like to get back to the resolutions. Because we also have guests. And if, if a guest is from the public wants to speak to a given resolution, I think we can hear from them. So, we're up to resolution number 343. Amending Fawn, if you would, because my eyesight is compromised tonight, if you wouldn't mind,

Fawn Tantillo

I will, we skipped the first resolution. So resolution 341, Amending the 2022 2027 Capital Improvement Program, establishing capital project number 646 ARPA Homeowner energy improvement and job training project amending the 2022 Capital Fund budget Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I'd like to ask if Deputy Rider would speak a little bit to those first, but we need a move to discuss.

Legislator Phil Erner

Move to discuss.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Second for the move to discuss. Legislator Hansut?

Legislator Gina Hansut

Sure.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Deputy Rider...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Sure. So as many of you remember, we had a CDBG grant that we submitted and got for \$800,000 to do a low-income homeowner energy improvement project that came with us saying that we would seek a match of \$500,000. And this is using ARPA funds to that match. It's also expanding the program to do a lot of on-the-job training and workforce development and not just doing the, the energy improvements. So, this will help us equip our workforce to do this work in the future as well.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I don't have it pulled up, but who's listed as the sponsor.

Fawn Tantillo

The Chairman of the ARPA special committee, Peter Criswell and Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

This, this is how many positions this is one position.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

This isn't a this won't be used for a position it'll be this will be contracting this out.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, and the money in it. And then when the money dries up, does it sunsets.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

This is just a onetime grant like using the ARPA funds. So, this would be, again, this won't be a paid position. This would be a contract through like a RUPCO from that firm that would do this training. And yeah, once the funds are gone, the program would be over,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

and specifically, the positions, you would be getting trained for to eventually go and achieve or

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

They would be private. Like they would then move on and do work for organizations that do this work

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And what kind of work like....

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Energy retrofits, so like especially with, with low-income homeowners, it could be shoring up the envelope of the home to make it more energy efficient. Looking at the windows, replacing parts of their H vac system. It's just doing home improvements to make it more energy efficient.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Those, okay, those are all expensive things, especially at this point expensive thing. So, we're going to, we're teaching the homeowner, we're teaching somebody to do construction work, that's green construction work.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Correct.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

It's likely to be like Citizens for Local Power. And they are now Communities for Local Power, they've done three rounds of training of mostly low-income youth and, and others, under employed people to take training from very highly qualified contractors. And most of them are now actually employed. So, this would be training a new crop of people to be able to do these energy audits and retrofits. And the fact that it's focusing on low-income households, I think, you know, has a double benefit. And I do want to say that I was a beneficiary of a deep energy retrofit on my home, and I, my bills were cut by two thirds

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, how would, so, they're going to by.. while they're training, they're going to be doing the actual work on low-income households.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, supervised.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So that's where they'll be doing it?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah. And that we have that 800,000 In other funds to help with those. So, this money is really towards the workforce, with CDBG grant, which is for this low-income program, will then fund the actual improvements?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

How much per household? 30,000? What did I see that in there? It's up to 30,000 per household.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

So, I don't have access to the backup for this. Committee. Yeah. That sounds about right. Yeah.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I was at the ARPA meeting on this. Fawn, may I be added as a sponsor, even though

Legislator Joseph Maloney

That covers materials, and we're paying the firm to do the work while training a couple of local young residents? I'm just...

Chair Manna Jo Greene

It's way more "than a couple".

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll, how many, how many people are going to be in the program for 800,000?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

That I don't, I don't have that exact number,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Give me give me an estimate.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I will say that the training programs are 15 to 20 people that Empower Kingston, it, you know, that's a sort of a pilot. And this in itself is a pilot to expand to the hundreds of 1000s of building retrofits that are proposed in the Climate Action Plan.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And my last question, the firm, or the firms that we bring in to do that, they're being paid to do their work. And the and the people that are being trained are being paid to train.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Correct.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, how much... what's the breakdown of money going to the, the house itself, so if you're doing \$30,000 worth of work, how much of that is going to end up being salary and how much, you know...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

So, it's two separate pots, I just want to clarify that there's the 800,000 of CDBG that will go directly towards those improvements. And then there's this resolution, which funds the workforce development piece, so you know, if you're looking at 30,000 What's 100,000 divided by 30,000? That's about the amount of houses that will...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

70?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

25 or so, right? So, 25 or so houses the other one all right, I think that with this 500,000 is probably going to be roughly 20 to 30 people that will receive the training at least

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I believe I understand what's going on here. We, we had approved this 800,000 and, and now there's another, there's another, we're allocating half a million too the from ARPA. Correct me if I'm wrong.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

That's correct.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, Um, before I get into my other comments, I just wanted to offer a friendly correction amendment. It says we're as Citizens for Local Power. Chair Greene, as you mentioned, they changed their name. Let's just change that to Communities for Local Power to reflect their current name, please, if I might, so move.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo

In Resolution 341, in the fifth “whereas” it cites Citizens for Local Power, and we’re going to change the word “citizens” to “communities”.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

That’s correct.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I’ll second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All in favor of that amendment?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Okay, the motion passes to amend Resolution number 341.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Marc, have we discussed this with BOCES? or UCCC?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yes. I believe that those conversations have been had.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But they’re not going to be a part of this. They have programs like this. Certainly, BOCES does, why wouldn’t we just empower BOCES to do something that they already do?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

If I may be, and Marc, correct me if I’m wrong. But the, we’re employment training and workforce development department has been coordinating with SUNY Ulster, with BOCES, with communities for local power and others, sort of a green careers pipeline. And so there’s no reason not to include BOCES. But it specifically does include communities for local power, because they have this direct specific experience of having trained several cohorts very effectively, not only trained, but

Legislator Joseph Maloney

we have just mentioned, that’s a company. That’s...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

They're nonprofit or not for profit or company profit corporation. And they have the internship already with OE T, that doesn't mean that some of this money won't go towards, like you said, BOCES, which, in that same whereas that you just made the amendment, it talks about now Communities for Local Power, says, you know, has a successful internship, but we're also going to work with local contractors and others, ie: BOCES. To provide the on-the-job training.

Fawn Tantillo

You know, in a previous life, when I was the Director of Employment and Training, we had several training programs we did with all kinds of local businesses in all kinds of demand occupations, where we would pay like the first \$5,000 of someone's salary while they were in training. And if the employer liked them, that they might, you know, they might continue when it, when we were done paying that section, I suspect this sounds like it's very similar. And they usually work with people who are displaced workers, maybe people who haven't worked in a while, displaced homemakers who are coming back into the job market. It behooves the office of employment training to get those people into these programs first, but they do a lot of youth programs the same way and we got a lot of people that even people coming out of prison and things that an employer might be nervous about hiring, we would bond them and pay it like they pay the first \$5,000 of their salary while they've worked. And we would have a job coach with them and make sure that they were you know, showing up to work on time behaving appropriately, those kinds of things.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

It's the same, Fawn. That's the same concept, but it's a much different process. As what I'm saying I was I was asking about the process.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I see Legislator Erner's hand but I just want to ask Deputy Ryder if he would see if the Department of Employment and Training could convene that green job pipeline around this and see if if they haven't already in the planning department may already have done that and I'm just not aware. But I I've been really impressed with how well BOCES in the community college and the other groups that are doing kind of development around the housing, around buildings really have started to coordinate instead of kind of working in silos. And I think it would be really valuable around this project moving forward, but hopefully. So, this came out, we're not just discussing it, we actually can vote on it, because I just want to be sure. I was confused whether ARPA director Dennis Doyle did from planning did an excellent presentation, but and covered all your questions. I just don't have it at the top of my head. legislator. Erner, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you. Let's see here, I. So I looked at I looked at the numbers, the estimate of 25 to 30k per home, and I spoke with a business that does this kind of work and just checked in, they even made an estimated lower than that. So that reassured me that we're not underestimating what this is going to cost for a home. So, so that gets my support. And I liked it, it mentions things about air quality, just so the committee knows I'm still trying to get us better informed about that, from some local organizations

that study indoor air quality, who have when they do talk to us, they'll explain to us how you can't really retrofit a home for energy efficiency if the air indoors isn't in good shape. But I see that that's a part of what this would do so that makes me happy as well. In terms of the administrative costs, they see \$100,000 for that, and then the 500 for homeowners now, is that right that 1/6 of the of the total is going to go to Administration, or is that can we also include the 800,000? So, it's actually more like 1/14 is for the administration?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I mean, I think there's they're slightly separate programs, but you could, you could count that the aid in there as well. But it's one it's 500 here, so it would, it would mean you know, it would mean 400 towards that out of this specific resolution. And 100 towards the administration.

Legislator Phil Erner

Like, can you just I'm sorry, Deputy Rider, you said 400,000 is for is the direct assistance.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I don't have, again, that backup in front of me, but this total amount is 500,000. So, if there's 100,000 in administrative fees off the top of that, then that would be 400,000 for the workforce development work. It would also leave the 800,000 that will go towards the direct aid.

Legislator Phil Erner

I think I see what's going on here. Actually, I think the 500k comes from ARPA. And then the state, the state has given 40k and the CDF the community development 60k. I am looking at the backup. So I think just this, this would, would just be the direct assistance, which would be essentially the training we're talking about it looks like.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Correct.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And, you know, that training includes getting the work done. And, and I expect that the materials? Well, I don't want to say it wrong, but they are included in the overall project. Clearly. Any other questions on this? So maybe we can?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Well, this one would just be criteria. And obviously with, with 30 people having this benefit, you're talking a very small percentage of percentage of a percentage of a percentage point of people that will be affected, how are you going to ensure equity and fairness with this process?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

So that's built into any of the CDBG funded programs, we have to show that we've advertised that we've done our due diligence and ensured that everybody has kind of equal opportunities so that you know, we on a yearly basis get CDBG funds and they have to go to disadvantaged population. and so, the planning department has that process now.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

You're going to sort of you're going to spread it out around the county.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yes

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Proportionately to the percentage of residents in each municipality,

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

As much as we can, that we're allowed, you know, again, there's only certain disadvantaged zones in the county and, and so I don't know whether we can say to those over there will get one...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I get that but Saugerties, Esopus, Woodstock, Town of Ulster, Kingston are going to have a fair percentage of the same percentage of residents they have per you know, added 200,000 in the county, they should end up with the same percentage of this program. Close to it?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Ellenville.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah, Ellenville, Shawangunk.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyway, your point is well taken, you know, fair distribution. Okay, are we ready to call the question? All right. All in favor resolution number 341. Amending the 2022 capital improvement for ARPA for the homeowner energy improvement and job training program, please signify by saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Great motion carries.

Fawn Tantillo

And I'm adding you as a sponsor, Madam Chair. Is there anyone else that wanted to join? Be on it as a sponsor?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Say again?

Fawn Tantillo

You asked me to add you as a sponsor.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I would like to be added as a sponsor, anybody else?

Legislator Gina Hansut

You can add me? Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Um, we're about to consider resolution number 345. And again, I'm going to ask for Fawn to please read it for us.

Fawn Tantillo

Resolution 345- Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Motion to discuss.

Legislator Phil Erner

So moved.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Okay. That was Legislator Erner and Legislator Hansut. And let's see. Any. Any discussion on on the motion?

Fawn Tantillo

Legislator Erner has his hand up.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I don't believe we got any comment at the session when we had public hearing last month. Does anyone know have we received any written comments from the public about this?

Fawn Tantillo

Not that I'm aware of.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Any is... Legislator Maloney? Please? Legislator Maloney did you have your hand up? You're still on mute.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'm having... it's very glitchy I can't get to the mute today. This is a more or less a memorializing resolution about a goal to get to a certain amount of green vehicles in the county. You know, just to reiterate, we have had some issues, we went and spent some big money on UCAT vehicles that are technically "green", but can only do the Kingston run, because we chose not to spend the money to get UCAT vehicles that could travel up certain hills and farther. When you hear the word "green" vehicle or green, it's not all the same. And I think we need to dive in a little more. And the most "green" thing you can do with a fleet the size of Ulster counties is to figure out how to reduce that fleet as well. And I don't believe we've done anything with regards to this. I'd love to have a study done and we would definitely be able to do this in house. It's not really a study. It's more of an inventory, where we get every single vehicle who drives that vehicle, how many miles have been put on that vehicle over the year and things like that and you go through and that's how you really get down to business and figure out how to reduce the size of your fleet, which is the most green thing you can do.

I'll remind everyone about these batteries, how difficult they are to get rid of the toxicity that's in there, the mining that goes to get into the minerals and whatnot, that needs to be put in those vehicles puts quite a bit of carbon out. A lot of these, when you're charging your vehicle, many times, we're still burning fossil fuels to charge those vehicles. So "green", green vehicles are not as "green" as you think. Reducing a fleet like this is the greenest thing we can do. And it has no part of this conversation.

And I'll just reiterate that this is nothing more than a memorializing resolution of a goal of a percentage. So, it doesn't, to me, this is kind of thing is not much. And, and I would like to have a real conversation at some point about reducing and I think it starts with the list. And seeing how we're how we can reduce the, the vehicles we have and, and not just make them green. 1:16:08

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anybody else? I do want to point out, having just submitted comments for the seven county mid-Hudson region, one of the really great suggestions was to develop kits, and these are starting to be developed, where you can take a fossil fuel, an internal combustion engine vehicle and retrofit it. Because if you turn it in and buy an EV because you want to be part of beneficial electrification then somebody else is going to buy that used vehicle and it's not really retired. So, they'll be burning fossil fuel.

And the other thing I want to... I think you are getting at Legislator Maloney, that I want to agree with is that we absolutely must put the renewable energy infrastructure and storage in place ahead of the beneficial electrification of transportation in buildings, otherwise, we will be ultimately burning more fossil fuels.

So, it's one of the reasons I keep pushing participation in the solar mapping, to empower local municipalities to do take a leadership role in that transition and get that infrastructure in place in their town or city. And we have a third cohort that started this week. And hopefully, eventually, we will be able to include all the municipalities in the mid-Hudson region, but I think we're up to about 30. And if your municipality hasn't participated in one, too, we do record them so that if you miss this session, the recordings available.

Anyway, back to the resolution. And these glasses actually work. Yeah. I can read. So if there's no further discussion

Fawn Tantillo

Legislator Erner has this hand up.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Who does? Oh, Phil Erner, Okay, Legislator Erner, go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Oh, thanks again. I, yeah, I'm gonna, I'm gonna support this. And I agree, let's, let's talk more about what a Green Fleet looks like, not just for our county fleet, but what does it look like overall, in the county, so that includes private motorists, freight, basically, every, all the fleet.

And one thing I really would like to point out is that on the passenger side, you can, you can do, you can achieve a lot of our goals. By expanding mass transit, you can achieve the greening of the fleet, Whatever kind of bus it is, it's better than having that many cars on the road. And it also is the equitable thing to do. And it's, it's also it's also the cheaper thing to do in the long run, in terms of maintenance on the roads and maintenance on vehicles. So, there's all these good reasons to expand transit. And then yeah, I just hope we can also expand the discussion toward, toward private motoring. I got it I got an email the along with a few other legislators today about gas prices again. And I mean, there's, there. We know here in the county government; there's only so much we can do to directly affect those prices. But one thing maybe that we can do, and this is also cultural work, not just government work, but is figure out how the biggest consumers would consume less. Because that also affects the price of things. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, you're welcome. Um, are we ready to call the question? All in favor of resolution number 345? Please raise your hand and or signify by saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Opposed.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And for the record? That's three in favor and Legislator Maloney opposed?

Fawn Tantillo

All right. Resolution number 351, Authorizing the Department of Planning to submit an application to the New York State climate smart communities grant program for renewable energy equipment at the Golden Hill housing site Department of Planning.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Deputy Ryder, do you want to speak to this at all?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Sure. So anytime we fill out an application for a Community Smart, Climate Smart Communities grant, they require us to submit a resolution of approval prior to that. This would be for up to \$2 million in grant funding. That would help offset the goals of as close to net zero on that housing development as possible. If the grant application was successful, the county would be taking an environmental easement over the property. And there is a match requirement. But we believe that and we're are working with the, the funding source to make sure that either the jail demo costs would offset the match or we could pass the match costs on to the developer, it would not be additional county funds for this grant.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, any questions? Legislator Maloney,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

When should we move it?

Fawn Tantillo

We need to move it?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah, I'll make a motion to move it to for discussion.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And legislator under seconds?

Legislator Phil Erner

Yes.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Can you quickly describe what you meant by that easement part

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

So, this is not apples to apples, because it's it was for the RRA. But we've filled out a grant, grant application... as the municipality, we're the only ones eligible for these grant funds. We've filled out a grant application in the past for the RRA. In order, I think it was their composting operations, Nick shaking his head, he may have more details. An environmental easement just ensures that the equipment stays in place, I believe, Nick, you want to step in and explain it a little bit better than it's not my area of expertise

Director Nick Hvozda

It is something the DEC Office of Climate Change requires for this type of grant. It's called a climate change mitigation easement. And I believe that's the intent is to keep whatever beneficial changes happen as a result of the project in place for a period of time and ensure that the DEC has rights to make that happen

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, the easement is part of the legality of getting around the fact that we don't technically own the property or...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

To ensure that yet that it stays long term.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Right. When did this come onto your radar? When's the first discussion that was had inside the Executive's wing about doing this?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah, so Dennis brought this to my attention for the first time late in June, so, right before, right, right before the resolution deadline was the first conversation that I had had.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Late June. Do you know the exact date?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I don't. I mean, obviously before the deadline to submit the resolutions but so on I was really hoping resolutions that were submitted. This is the first that I had seen it.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, a billion-dollar corporation developer that were giving 20-acres of valuable land for around a million dollars, which, which is off an appraisal that they did themselves, that we had never seen. We were all told, seemed it was almost contracted that way, that they were going to do the multimillion dollar demo, we've now paid for that, though, it doesn't seem to have affected the ridiculously low price, we're going to give this developer., And now out of nowhere, the head of planning, without telling the executive or any deputies or anything, why this popped into his head has come along with this idea to do a bunch of \$2 million worth of work. And it's going to be a last-ditch effort to ever even ask the billionaire developer who's virtually getting this property for free in a process that doesn't seem transparent or fair to the taxpayer just a couple of weeks ago. Isn't that odd?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

It happens all the time. I mean, we are currently viewing...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll tell you what happens all the time. It happens when on June 21, in the City of Kingston. They're making this developer... to get through the planning process, fill out an environmental application of some sort that Penrose fought tooth and nail. Because it's not an environmental project, you're now telling me literally a day or two later, the head of planning, who's been pushing for this project in more than one way because he's also on the housing. He's a member of the Housing Corporation, that gets to make decisions. And he's the Planning Director, which is a duplication of services that I think there's ethics charges in on is now pushing for this to become a green project. And you don't think it has anything to do with the billion-dollar corporation that needs it to look this way to pass the Kingston planning board.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

This has always been a Green Project.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Not according to the planning board meeting I saw from the 21st.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

The original RFP talks about...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

...and it just lines up perfectly with the timing. You think it's appropriate to do more million-dollar work for this billion-dollar developer? That we've never even done an appraisal on? At the same time, the same people inside the Executive's office want to buy a \$4 million brownfield from somebody in New Paltz? We're gonna give this property that's probably worth 10 times that property away for a million bucks. Marc at some point, don't we have to do things right? I mean, at some point, do you always have to follow the, you know, the party lines? You always have to pretend everything's okay when it's blatantly not. I mean, does it ever get old? This is bad, Marc. This is a bad deal.

And I hope we vote this down. I really do. I'm talking to my colleagues now. I'm hope. I hope we take a further look at this. And we don't just pass this right now. This is millions more dollars for a developer on this property we're not even going to own. We just bought two pieces of property in the City of Kingston. Why don't we do it on that county owned property? I mean, for God's sakes, we're putting people in Greene County now because of these homeless shelters. And we're putting Elizabeth Street on the back burner while we work for this developer. But please, Manna, Phil and Gina, please, let's postpone this and have further thought and discussion. This doesn't make any sense.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Any other comments? Legislator Erner

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, um, I share a lot of the concerns that that Legislator Maloney has, has just raised. I think if we went ahead and approved this, this... I was not wanting to move ahead on this even before hearing those comments and what a lot of which we've, we've known about before.

One thing that reassured me, that makes me feel like okay to move ahead, although I'd be willing to off to suggest we also postponed for a special meeting before session, maybe to get some more information. But the ,the fact that this is let's say that Penrose in the end doesn't, doesn't agree with everything we want to do or like even walks, but we still want to have a low income housing project up there. We still have that possibility. And as, as we've heard from Deputy Executive, the funds that we are now expending that I wasn't ready to but the majority of the body was we moved ahead on the on the jail demo, or were at least approving ARPA funding for it.

Anyway, there might be another way for us to find that match in which case the state will will be supporting the county's efforts to do this, this, this energy thing now. There are some caveats I saw in the application around public and low-income housing. And I heard and another committee from Director Doyle and about how well we're seeing if this will qualify, because the project, it's still not clear to me is a totally low-income housing, is it partly workforce housing, I think there's supposed to be senior housing in there. But that's going to be up to you guys and executive to, to, I guess, negotiate with the state.

But I guess I could, I could support this right now, again, because it doesn't really commit us to something that we don't want to commit to yet. We haven't signed the agreement, even though Penrose is offered to pay. And I could also support a postponement to before session, I know that there's a deadline on this. That's the week after session. So, postponing for a month, we would give up the chance to do this.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

If I may, it was going to ensure that as an easement, that as the project moves forward, that there are additional environmental considerations. You know, whether you agree with how the project was developed, you know, it seems to me that, that adopting this will further protect the environment. So. And, and since you pointed, that was going to be my question, would it, would a delay, invalidate, or,

you know, take away? Any comments? I think, at this point, we have moved it and it has been seconded,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll make a motion to postpone.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Is there a second to postpone?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And by the way, I'm on there's a June 21 Planning Board meeting in the City of Kingston that's online, an hour and 34 minutes in is where they discuss the sustainability checklist, which is what led I believe the Executive's team to this at the exact same moment. And at some point, is the billion-dollar developer going to do and expend any money? Or are we just going to build it for him? That's what we're doing so far. I made I made

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Hansut

Legislator Gina Hansut

I'm...Deputy Director Rider, if we did postpone it, how would it have an effect on on the funds, or any grants or anything?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

The applications do in the month of July. So, if it was postponed for a month, then we would not submit this application? You might as well vote it down.

Fawn Tantillo

Yeah, applications due July 29. In the backup.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh it was July 29. We will Oh, this is July, sorry. I think those drops affected my brain is which is my eyes. So, we are in the process of calling the question.

Legislator Phil Erner

Chair Greene?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

So, Legislator Maloney made a move to postpone. And I'm wondering if there's any, if we might invite any members of the public on here who have an opinion to share it?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes. And it was suggested earlier that there might be one person that could represent the community. Is that possible?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Oh, that was on a set was on a that's a Glengarry Boulevard issue with regards to Central Hudson. This is Golden Hill.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Somebody has her hand up. Okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Hey, we

Caylin Sanders

We intend on speaking later if, if you'll have me but I just wanted to support Legislator Maloney. This completely ties into having more transparency and more information before these large deals are made before residents and the environment is taken into account. And I would hate to see something passed where we didn't know 100% sure how this is gonna affect everyone. That's all I'll say. Okay,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, does anybody else want to come in on this on this resolution?

Ellen Difalco

May I offer a comment?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please, Ellen.

Ellen Difalco

Oh, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am offering a comment this evening with the way that the resolution is referring to the project at Golden Hill as low-income housing. This is very troubling to me and to other residents that live in the area, because this project has been dubbed all along from the county and from Penrose, as a mixed income, intergenerational and workforce housing project. So, we have asked from the very, very beginning "What type of a project is this?" Now this resolution is offering a \$2 million grant to Penrose when we have already sent 1.5 , have approved 1.5 million for the demolition of the former jail. And Penrose has not anteed up anything. This is not fair.

So, my question is, what exactly is this project being promoted as? Are we going to be a senior Plex are we going to be mixed income? Are we going to be intergenerational workforce housing is middle income housing comprised of apartments with average income rents that hover modestly above the rents required to qualify for low income subsidies. So what are we going to have? I would like to know. And I think thank you for your time.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And Chair, if I could just point out. Okay, why now? And why this property? With so many different places, we could have attempted to do something like this. Why do it for a billion-dollar developer, after we've already done so much? This process has been so, so untransparent and so unfair to the taxpayer.

We're now... the Chair of the Legislature is now agreeing with me to have an actual policy about having two independent appraisals done. We are acknowledging that we have already allowed this firm to take great advantage of us to the point at which I would almost say it's getting to the point of corruption. This is such a bad deal. It's hard to explain it. For the taxpayer. It's hard to explain how you don't ...you... we are negotiating with this firm. And we just ...without ever seeing an appraisal and the appraisal is blatantly low. And now the demo... the question marks around the demo. They were going to do it ,now they're not. Now this, out of nowhere, literally may be the next day after this firm property to be green. The next day, June 21. That's how I knew what Marc was going to say when I asked him. I knew it was going to be late June because I knew what happened in the planning board meeting. I think there's one more citizen from over there that just got on perhaps we can give him the floor.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Before I do I want to ask a process question. Originally, I believe Legislator Erner, when he was thinking about the possibility of postponing, mentioned a special meeting before, so that we could reconsider in time for session. So, it would be between now and session. And I'm wondering if when Legislator Maloney. I don't think you specified that, but I wonder if a short-term poll settlement might get us some answers, if there are specific questions,

And also, the idea of deconstruction, or demolition has been raised in this discussion and I, I really want to see this become a model of deconstruction. So, we're also addressing materials management and climate solutions. And that's what the application appears to me. You know, to be promoting. It says for renewable energy of equipment. But so, I want to ask about deconstruction. I've brought it up before and kind of been assured, best available technology, but there are organizations that really specialize in deconstruction. And given the controversy around this project, I'd like to be assured that that's actually going to occur.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But is that a demo question? Is that a jail question, though? How much of that is involved with this resolution here?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Well, your, your point is well taken.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And Chair, just to point that out, Phil, and I put that forward when this was being the demo part of this was being pushed through that they haven't even told us how they're going to demo it or how they

came up with the price, or where along the line, we decided to use tax dollars instead of a billion dollar developer who had originally promised they would do the demo.

So, this is my point. We keep pushing these things through without ever really knowing what's really going on and why these things are being done. But I will tell you this. It's always the taxpayer that pays the price. And it's always, it seems to be always, these developers and insiders that make out on those tax dollars. And I feel this is another example.

I would be for a special, a special meeting being scheduled before session. If, if we do postpone I would be a yes on that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I saw a hand that and now I see as Cuttino, but I think it was, was it Matt Colangelo, who wanted to speak before? Well, did you have your hand up before Matt?

Matt Colangelo

No. But if you're offering the opportunity to speak, I certainly would love to opine.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right, well, let's go to Cuttino. And if Legislator Maloney recalls, who did request to speak,

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I had my hand up and I've taken it down. So, I know, Matt joined late and that's who Legislator Maloney was talking about, as far as giving an opportunity to speak.

Legislator Phil Erner

18 who had done applause I think not put a hand up.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. I very good night. I miss took that. So definitely read or say again, what you just said is that I can keep track.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I had my hand up before, but I've taken it down. So I know Matt Colangelo joined late, and that is who Legislator Maloney was referring to as far as a neighbor speaking on.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Matt, go ahead.

Matt Colangelo

Thank you, Chair. I mean, I am joining late. I think I've been following this project closely. And I would really urge this committee to listen closely to Legislator Erner and Maloney who have really invested their time to understand it. In particular, Legislator Erner who has said a lot of great things that I agree with, with respect to this project, I think it's being rushed through.

Why is it that at this stage, that they're now questioning whether or not the project is environmentally friendly? These things should have already been discussed. I think that we're moving at a fast rate. And I'm not sure why this project could be built anywhere. I think the site that it's being built on has always been an environmental challenge. That's why you build jails on property that nobody wants. I think that we're tearing a jail down to build another one. Or at least it seems that way. You know, I think of housing as being a place that you own, not rent. We should build homes and not units. And if we're going to build units, we should do environmentally friendly. We certainly shouldn't do it at an exorbitant cost to the public.

Homes should be things that people own, not things that they pay rent to a multibillion-dollar corporation. So, I really think that this committee should do everything in its power to slow down this project.

The third thing I really want to emphasize is, you know, who's going to live here? We keep hearing that there's a housing emergency in Ulster County, yet when you ask who the eligibility is, it's a lottery. The lottery is for everybody, I believe in the country. So, there's no guarantee that the residents of Ulster County that we claim need housing will even be able to live there. So, I think there's a lot more questions than answers.

And I'm not sure that we can rely on the information that we were being given from the one side. And the public has not had an opportunity to participate in this process, because there's only been one public hearing on four of the major topics that was held, virtually only. So, I really think that this committee should slow down this process.

And if the project isn't built, so be it. Something better, could be built in its place. So, I really hope you you, you do everything in your power to slow down. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Legislator Erner, go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Um, if, Joe, if, if Legislator Maloney was moving to postpone for the special meeting that I'd like to second that is that where we're at?

Fawn Tantillo

I would urge you to pick a date and time for a special meeting because the calendar is really full.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Is, Is there a gap between now in session at all that you can see to suggest?

Fawn Tantillo

I can't see all of the meetings, like the Chair's meetings and things like that. The only opening I see it's either on a Friday, or Monday, the 18th? Perhaps the day before session? There's a trails committee at six o'clock. But that's

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What about the 13th following ARPA?

Legislator Gina Hansut

The Commission on Reapportionment that night, which I think a lot of legislators are going to want to follow. It's the last meeting before they turn in their final redistricting map.

Legislator Phil Erner

Why can't we do it during or just before session? Like they do the Ways and Means the second time?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Ways and Means cannot act on this until this committee acts on it. So if it were to be after the second Ways and Means Committee they could not act on it.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Why don't why don't we do it at 5:15 in front of Ways and Means.

Fawn Tantillo

I don't believe this goes to Ways and Means.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, then that's fantastic.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

But I but we don't want to conflict. So

Legislator Gina Hansut

I don't think we can schedule a meeting when Ways and Means is going on,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Right.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Now. But right after, they just did this with Laws and Rules the other day, right before session right after the last meeting.

Legislator Gina Hansut

If you think you can, if you think you can get enough information to hash this out in 10 minutes, then you know...

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Hanson.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What about 13?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I called on Legislator Hansen. Hold on a minute, please.

Legislator Gina Hansut

What if it was even earlier on that day? Like 4? Instead of trying to push it in, in a 10 or 15 minute time slot? If this is this important? Why can't we do it earlier in the day?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll be there. The 21st is also very open.

Fawn Tantillo

That's after session.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Oh, whoops. I'm on the wrong week.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. So 4pm on because this is Legislator Maloney had a motion to postpone that didn't have a second at the time. So, we, we have a second. So now he could amend this is a friendly amendment to that motion. And go ahead.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Gina, yeah, you make the amendment.

Legislator Gina Hansut

No, I was just gonna say so if we do this, and we have this meeting at four o'clock, let's be clear, what is our goal? What information do we want to find out to either move this forward or not?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I think the rest of the.. our colleagues, our colleagues over the next week should hear about these issues and rethink everything about this project all over again. With one, one alarming fact after the other. With regards to a billionaire firm taking advantage of our county that no one can argue has done any due diligence and had anything that has said was going to happen go down the way it has. I mean, I know I'm not the only one that has issues with the appraisal and all these other things. Why does this corporation keep getting the best of us?

And this is just another example. And if everyone wants to keep saying these are all coincidences, then at some point, you have seven or eight coincidences, and they all cost the taxpayer and they all benefit Penrose? At some point, this legislative body has got to put its foot down. This gives this legislative body the chance to hear this argument, past practice of this legislative body, I'm not feeling real good. But I'm hoping, I'm hoping for once we put our foot down. And we and we let the Executive and his people know that the people of this county, the residents of this county, mostly middle class, homeowners deserve a hell of a lot more from their legislature when negotiating with billion-dollar developers than this. And if the developer wants to be green, then tell him to be green. They're billionaires, with they've already made out on us. So that's, that's what I'm hoping the rest of the (inaudible)

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I'm not gonna take any more public comment, we'll hear from Legislator Rider. And I just want to say that I don't want to do anything that's going to cause the county to forfeit money for renewable energy or climate solutions.

Fawn Tantillo

Can I just suggest something since our session on the 19th is at the college?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh, yes.

Fawn Tantillo

Perhaps you would, you're going to start earlier in the day, do it on the 12 before Ways and Means. Start it at four, you know?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Well, we could just get to the college a little earlier. In this conversation is going to have to happen before that if ,if there is going to be something to pull this back. I think if we got there and just started 30 minutes early, it would probably be enough. I don't think an hour I don't think another 30 or 40 minutes on top of that is going to change wherever we end up being at.

Fawn Tantillo

So, we the the date is the 19th at session.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yep. So the 19th. So in Ways and Means, Ways and Means is in person, why not just do five o'clock? In the same in the same classroom? Are we still doing it in the classroom? Or do we just hold Ways and Means now?

Fawn Tantillo

We're in the cafeteria.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So why not just do five o'clock in the cafeteria? And I would just like to say, if Peter Buffett needs solar, would we give it to him and say, well, it's solar, I just don't want to hold solar up. I mean, at some point, it matters. And with all these properties that we have here in a county, I just don't understand why it's the billionaire firm that's been whipping up on us gets it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Deputy Rider.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah, so I just want to point out a couple of just clarifications. So when the Request for Qualifications went out, there was a bullet point in there that talked about "meet the county's goals for a green new deal with the use of renewable energy and the utilization of green building practices in both materials and design". So, the idea that this grew out of some requests for an environmental checklist, which is something that always needs to be done and has been done for the, the planning board is just not true. It's, it's always been looked at.

For this project. This project is a mixture of 30%, AMI [Area Median Income] rents up to 80%, which is where the workforce comes in. It's intergenerational, because it involves senior housing. It involves workforce, and supportive housing. It says about an \$80 million project roughly. And so ,the idea that the developers not spending anything, and that it's on the taxpayers because we're spending 1.5 million, which by the way, we're getting back in the sale price, or 1.3 million to do demolition, which when asked about the estimate, we said it was an estimate. And then we went out to bid last month, and the bid came in at 1.3 million. Our guests was it would be 1.5. We were fairly accurate there.

We've shown Legislator Maloney the, the appraisal. I sent it to him last month. He has it in hand. He can see that it's done.

It's also had been stated multiple times that we will do a second appraisal and that's what will be the bid used for the sale price in the end.

This project has had a great deal of public input in both the sessions that Penrose has done - four of them, and through the last eight months of the Kingston planning board process. Individuals like Mr. Colangelo have had plant ample opportunity to submit written comments. I've seen them all. It's been extensive. And there's been extensive public comment. I have no issues with delaying this for whatever it needs to be delayed this month. I just don't know what other answers anybody's looking for.

The last time this came up, we asked for written questions. I'm going to do the same thing again. Because there's no questions that I know of that any legislators asked that are outstanding on this project.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Here, if I could, I was mentioned, the \$80 million project is quite tax funded. It's not just the millions that the county is putting in and shouldn't be. They're getting quite a bit of state and federal aid, which is

why the lottery exists, where we're not going to move many county residents and one of the questions I actually sent to you was that just that: Are we going to be moving county residents in? And you know what your answer was? Eventually? "Maybe not many of them will be county residents, but eventually they will be" was the answer you gave me.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Absolutely not accurate.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What was the, what was the answer? Are we going to be moving in many, many, many people from out of county and because of the state aid that this group is receiving, which was my whole point, that we could have got a developer in here that we said, look, we're giving you the property for free, it's got the infrastructure, it's got everything there that most property doesn't have? But what we're asking you is no PILOT so the schools get made whole - you haven't guaranteed us that and I was lied to by Mr. Weideman in a meeting not too long ago when he said there was no discussions of a PILOT. Then I pulled out a Freeman article where there was, there were, there was quotes from him about discussing on behalf of Penrose for a PILOT that would take away school. Phil, you were on the meeting, you recall I'm sure you can keep shaking your head all you want Marc. But these things are true. That then answer that question before I go on and debunk the other silly things. You were saying? Why don't you tell us?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I'm going to...(inaudible)

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What did you tell me?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Hansut (inaudible)

Legislator Joseph Maloney

No, no, no, no. Marc made many statements, put a lot of words in my mouth. And we're gonna get to the bottom of this. What was the statement? What did you tell me when I asked? Would there be mostly county residents moving in to this property?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I don't , I'm paraphrasing, because I don't know exactly what I said to you at the time. I said that we... in order to have affordable housing income credits, we have to use the voucher system.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

A lottery.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

And that's any affordable housing... a lottery, correct... that's any affordable housing project. That's RUBCO projects, and what you see for all RUPCO...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Not everyone, that's not true. That's not it's every affordable project. That's only the ones that get certain state aids and attaches...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

That's every affordable housing project, people don't just build affordable housing...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

That's, that's not true. No one's ever built. No one has ever offered affordable rent, even even what we used to call section eight at without building the building with tax credits. Yeah. Are you making that statement? Absolutely not. That's not true. So not every not all affordable housing started out affordable housing mark. So, it's it totally, that's just not true. What you just said you can certainly have affordable housing without a lottery. But this was not we did not arrange it that way. What did so did you or did you not tell me that it would be a lottery? And did you not I'm paraphrasing, that eventually, they would be residents.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I never said anything about eventually they'd be residents. What we saw in landmark place, we would...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll send it, I'll send it out to the committee Following the meeting. With regards to the appraisal, I just got the appraisal after months of asking it. And when I got the appraisal, according to you, it was the first time you've seen it. You've been in negotiations with a billion-dollar developer without ever seen the appraisal.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I had no negotiations for the selection of this developer. I was not on the Housing Development Corporation. At the time when this was selected. And

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I was resumed I was received a basic price from Dennis Doyle with you on a meeting about what the developer was going to pay. I refer to that as negotiations. You don't

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

That it had already been determined at the point that I became a...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Is that not a negotiation? Oh, okay. So, so, not you in particular, but Dennis Doyle and your colleagues Have you had negotiated, and I was told by you, that you and Dennis Doyle had when I kept requesting the appraisal had not seen the appraisal, and I believe you told me if they agree to give it to us, so you

weren't even sure that they were going to give us this appraisal that that Dennis apparently and the county were negotiating off of, he had never even seen it.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

And seen it, he was not the only one negotiating for the county at that time

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So who was negotiating off of this ridiculous appraisal that the that the developer did themselves, Marc?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

The licensed appraisal, by a certified company, (inaudible) the former deputy executive was the one involved in this process. And then the Housing Development Corporation as a whole, which involves two legislators.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Maloney. I would like to call on Legislator Hansut. She's had her hand up...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

and with regard to public input, there's been one public comment on four different things, as Matt had stated.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Hansut, please.

Legislator Gina Hansut

There's been two appraisals done?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

No, there will be a second appraisal done prior to the sale.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Okay...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

After we negotiate the price, and then we'll double check and see if the appraisal matches the price. It makes a lot of sense, like when you're selling your house.

Legislator Gina Hansut

So if we, so what we're what we're voting on in this resolution is to submit an application. If the second appraisal doesn't come back where we want it, what can we do?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

The second appraisal is what will dictate sale price of the property.

Legislator Gina Hansut

So, if we start this application process, it's not what we want, we didn't think whatever is then we can go backwards, and we can stop the process.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

The second appraisal, so whatever the second appraisal is, is what the the sale price of the property would be. I mean, I, so when you say go back and reverse the process, what, what exactly do you mean?

Legislator Gina Hansut

Well, I'm saying should we, if we went forward with this, and we start the application process, and then the appraisal doesn't come back where it should be? What? What can we do?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

You have to vote to accept? Right? This is just the application.

Legislator Gina Hansut

And that was that's my point, right? In this moment. It's this is just to do the application to secure the funds, if that's what we want that to me \$2 million in grant funding, so we don't lose that. So that's number one.

Number two, Mr. Colangelo - he had just mentioned, and I just have to do this on a sidebar, about people owning their home owning their home, everybody wants to own their home, I have to disagree. There are some people that don't want to own their own home, they want to rent, you know, for different reasons, jobs. Maybe they were only planning on staying in the area for a couple years, maybe for different reasons. So, I don't think that is a valid point.

So and then my third thing was, I forgot.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I have one last question in the Housing Corporation bylaw,

Legislator Gina Hansut

then I'll go no, no,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

don't finish up. I did not. I thought you were done.

Legislator Gina Hansut

No, I'm sorry. It just came back to me. So if we postpone this to the 19th, again, why are we postponing it? And what do we need to gain to either make a decision or not make a decision? Because I feel like we have had these conversations. And I just want to be clear that all of us understand why we would

postpone it. What is are we definitively looking for as answers on the 19th. So everybody can be on the same page.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I would like I mean, look, there are people on this meeting that don't live there, too, that live by Golden Hill, the rest, we've got people chiming in and going, Yeah, this doesn't sound great. Yes. I appreciate the due diligence. These are regular residents. These are constituents that have no, the only thing they have in the game is that they pay taxes.

That I think our colleagues, I don't think these conversations especially this last one has happened in other committees. And as soon as it's approved and going to be on the floor and we're at the college and it's and it's passed all committees. I don't think you're you're as likely to have a chance at getting to the point where the legislature says, You know what, this isn't enough.

I mean, another example of what I'm talking about in the Housing Corporation bylaws, in the bylaws. It was set up by the Housing Corporation that has the rights to make all these decisions, basically, because we've handed the the property off, they don't have to take. They don't have to go off of the appraisal. If the appraisal doesn't match, they can still move forward. You know, it's just bait and switch every which way? And why would... Can anyone hear any of my colleagues tell me why we before we started any of this, before we did anything with this property, why we didn't have two independent appraisals, we've got zero independent appraisals, why we don't have to, why are we sitting here? It's, it defies logic that we would be hearing right now. Hey, don't worry. And that's what we just heard. Don't worry. We're gonna get another appraisal after we agree upon a price, what happens to all this work and all these things we've decided, and all this time wasted, if the appraisal comes back, and it's a couple of million higher than Penrose is willing to pay? We start from scratch? Why did we ever get to this point, without two independent appraisals?

And if you if you polled the 180 to 200,000 people that live in this county, there'd only be a handful of people that wouldn't have an issue with a lot of this process. And one of them is on the meeting right now. And I'm sorry, it's just a coincidence, that just the other day on June 21, that there was a requirement for Penrose to complete the project sustainability assessment form. And then there was a discussion where one person I believe on the board said they didn't quote, find it environmentally friendly enough. This is a concern for Penrose. And just like every billion-dollar corporation, they don't want to spend your own money, they don't want it, they are their own money, they want to spend ours, they don't want to they don't want to build their own stadium. They don't want to pay for anything. And we have, for some reason, it seems all too often we have these high-ranking officials on every level of government, that's all too happy to make the deal and do it on the behalf of the taxpayers back. That's why I want to wait a week and let the graduate rest of the legislators you know, add this to the list of concerns about this developer, its relationship to this Housing Corporation. And and all these alarming coincidences.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Hansut asked a question that we need to clarify so we can move on, we still have quite a few items on the agenda. And I'm gonna say if they're not urgent, some of the new business may need to be postponed till the next meeting. So can we

Legislator Gina Hansut

I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page, if we do postpone this to before the meeting, that there are definitive questions to be asked. Not to have discussion, discussion, discussion, that doesn't kind of end? Not that it's not a good discussion, but that we need these answers to move forward. So that's my only point.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

So, do we have clarity on the questions that we want answered, relating to this amend to this resolution? By you know, the meeting before session?

Legislator Phil Erner

I don't know that we do. I think we have some time to send it. Deputy Rider, you've asked that we submit written questions. I'm willing to do that for myself. Just as, as has last time. I don't know if we should put a deadline on ourselves for that. But I think it's okay, that we don't have haven't formulated the questions right this moment. I feel okay about that. Getting them in like by by Monday or something like that, which is still over a week in advance.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Well, um, we have a motion and an amendment. I think we have to act on the amendment.

Fawn Tantillo

Now you have the motion if this point stands that you were postponing to July 19. At five o'clock at the college. Right. And that was moved by Mr. Maloney and seconded **by Legislator Hansut?**

Legislator Gina Hansut

No, no. Erner.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay. And you're going to submit questions about this resolution, or about the project?

Legislator Gina Hansut

In general, That's what I want, like clarification on.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I think Marc would answer. I mean, I've, I've asked a lot of questions, through email, I'll print those out and bring them. Some of the things that I just discussed before in writing through text and email. And the responses I got, which I reiterated, I don't think Marc would have a problem with anybody writing a quote, see, sometimes you can say, Look, we should only be talking about what's specific to this resolution. But I happen to think all these things are related when it comes to the the property over there on Golden Hill and this developer and what this developer has been allowed, it's, it's cumulative

to me. So, I mean, I do think part of the process has to part of the conversation still should be, hey, all right, we let you go. They didn't do the demo. Hey, we caught you red handed, you didn't do your own appraisal or a second. Hey, you know, there's conflicts of interest here that are still before an ethics board, you know, 40% of the Housing Corporation, that I do want to ask Marc on the record to answer me that, can this Housing Corporation accept make an offer with Penrose, that does not match the appraisal?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I am going to...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I'd have to go back and look. So, if you put that in writing, I'll answer it in writing. I don't have the bylaws in front of me.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But you're telling us a moment ago not to worry, because we're getting a second appraisal, you're representing that, you know,

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

The second appraisal will be the basis of the sale price.

[inaudible]

Chair Manna Jo Greene

As Chair, I'm going to stop, I'm going to ask that we stop. We're going around in circles. We're repeating ourselves. If we pass on postponing, I'm going to ask that the questions be related to the resolution. I believe that's proper, proper procedure, that if we're postponing that the questions be related. So at this point, I am going to call the question and the question is on the motion to postpone and Fawn, would you kindly read the date and the time so we're all clear on that?

Fawn Tantillo

You are postponing till July 19, the day of session at five o'clock, half an hour before Ways and Means and the meetings at the college.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. And it's not virtual? It's not mixed. It's at the college. Okay. All right. All in favor of the resolution to postpone.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Legislative Maloney, I didn't see your hand or hear you.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I am a yes. And I did just find the bylaws..."disposal property for less than fair market value (FMV)". It is in there. They don't have to go off fair market value. I am a yes to postpone.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. So resolution number 351 is postponed. Resolution Number 352 - Authorizing the Department of Environment oops.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Manna, do you want me to read it? Yeah. Well, it's surprising the Department of the Environment to submit an application to the New York State Water Quality Improvement Project Grant Program for water quality projects, Department of the Environment.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, um, if Nick is still here, Nick, would you like to just be sure everybody's clear about what this resolution is? And why

Legislator Phil Erner

Move to discuss, Chair Greene.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. I'll second. Go ahead.

Director Nick Hvozda

This is a similar timeline to the previous resolution. There's an application deadline of July 29. For for this program as well. This is these are both part of the consolidated funding application process. We are proposing to submit two applications that are both related to water quality. The first is for a culvert replacement. On a project for which through previous grant funding, we've completed a final design for a complete detailed design of a culvert replacement for a road stream crossing in a town of Woodstock on Whitmer road. This is work that if it were funded The Department of Public Works would complete in the grant would help to pay for the materials primarily on the project. This particular project was identified as a opportunity to improve aquatic organism passage. And that's where it aligns with the grant requirements under the water quality program. Second project we're proposing to apply for funding to complete is or to assist is a salt storage facility improvement project that is a already a capital project on in the capital plan to replace fabric roofs on six solid storage facilities at public works. Highway substations around the county.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And are they both under resolution? 352?

Director Nick Hvozda

Yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And I should know that but I've just come out of a very deep tunnel of focus. So getting my sea legs anyway.

Director Nick Hvozda

The resolution requests authorization to apply for up to the category maximum for each of those two projects. But that may not be required based on the scope of the project. So that's something we're determining now. With with Public Works,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Is there any discussion? Any further discussion? Legislator Ermer?

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I just I noticed in the project subtypes, high priority and low priority and it looks like is it it's the case that we're trying to replace the roofs on the salt? And it's we're not building new salt structures? Is that right? That's correct. Yeah, the the we would not, we would get fewer points for the for scoring for that aspect of the project that is replacement rather than a new new construction. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Any other questions or comments? I'd like to call the question on resolution 352, authorizing Department of Environment, just min application to the New York safe water quality improvement grant program as just discussed. Will everyone in favor please raise your hand or signify by saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? The motion carries.

And now we're going to go to new business. I'm going to start with the new business that was put on the agenda a little earlier. And then then I will ask Legislator Erner, if any of the new business that he proposes for us to talk about. could wait until August.

And then we will do old businesses? Well, some of which I think we've covered but we mentioned the Reuse Innovation Center which there is budget in the capital plan to do a feasibility study that RFP has been issued and they are at the Department of Environment is asking for a representative from this committee. So, I would like to volunteer since I've been following this process and actively participating in its evolution to be the designee from Energy Environment and Sustainability but I also if somebody else was you know I want to be sure that that's the will of, of the committee.

Legislator Phil Erner

You got it

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. So we will need a motion just a motion in a second.

Legislator Gina Hansut

I'll make the motion.

Legislator Phil Erner

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay moved by Legislator Hansut, seconded by Legislator Erner. All in favor, please signify.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Anybody opposed? All right motion passes. And Phil is, Is there any new business that is more urgent? You know that we should? I'll leave that up to you because I don't I don't have your list in front of me.

Legislator Phil Erner

Well, thanks, Chair Greene. Let's start with the, the issue that many of the members of the public are here to hear about and perhaps talk about, who've waited so patiently. And Legislator Maloney might also, if you an invitation has started us off, since you were at a recent meeting about the matters on and then in that the Esopus neighbors group has brought to our attention.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Sure, I'll go really quick on it and hand it over to I believe one resident over there wants to kind of speak on behalf of everyone.

Central Hudson built their training facility over there. In the town of Ulster, we've all driven past and seeing it's ongoing. I think there are some things that you could prioritize differently. I don't think anything's minor, but tree lines, you know, not having any buffer anymore. You worry about air quality, especially when there were more trucks going in and out. To me the biggest issues, and I've been over there, I've been to meetings between the citizens over there. I think they have monthly or quarterly meetings, I was at the last one and asked a lot of questions of Central Hudson, there are some serious drainage issues now that have begun. You have serious property damage, damage, I've seen the property that I've seen the property damage, you have a couple of people over there that have the water is washing through in a way it never has. Really hurting property, it's making its way to the Esopus I've seen it where it goes in, it's an issue, especially when you're wondering about what is going on over Central Hudson and what is in that water. It's also obviously adding to the turbidity. You have residents that live right next to this that are having these water issues come into their property that's still around wells. So, we have drinking water concerns. And there's it goes underneath. And it looks like we may have an issue where it's starting to undermine a CSX area of the track, which even CSX and Central Hudson have acknowledged as a concern.

So, you have CSX, acknowledging to the residents over there and Central Hudson in a meeting with me and I'm hearing with my own ears, that there is concerns of a possible derailment issue down the road if this continues. Where we're at right now is Central Hudson is pointing the finger at the town of Ulster on one side saying it's a town of Ulster's fault that water is coming from the road area onto their property and washing through and they're blaming the other half on the CSX and culverts that they claimed in the meeting were clogged, which the residents and CSX went over there recently and saw weren't clogged or completely clear. And they're holding pond seems to be normal.

To me looking at this, this is an issue with Central Hudson, but you have \$2 billion corporations if they're both considered regular corporations pointing the finger at each other. And you have residents along there. And now that this is up in the open, it's on the record, if there is a trail to a train derailment down the line and there is fatalities or serious injuries. I mean, you are going to have a lot there's going to be no more plausible deniability. I've been there I've walked the property and I've heard with my own ears Central Hudson acknowledged concerns about an eventual derailment. So, there is real, real issues over there.

Like I said, they'll have some others. There's a couple of others. I think the main issues the Esopus Creek, the property damage, the drinking water contamination, and a possible train derailment worry down the line. If this continues, the best I can understand. The best I can see I'm no expert, but I do think the county needs to get involved. Central Hudson claimed to me that they would love the county to get involved because they're blaming CSX they've said they've reached out to CSX and CSX more or less ignores them. The community over there is getting a different story from CSX saying that they've been in contact with Central Hudson quite a bit and that it is actually Central Hudson's drainage that is overflowing their, their holding ponds and they're culverts which for the last 100 years have been fine. So, you can hear from Catlin now, but I do think it's something that the county the government is going to need to get involved in this.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Could I before I call on anyone could I just ask this seems like a matter for DEC. You know, if it were a county culvert, then Department of Public Works by If it's appropriate, this is private, then there are enforcement, enforcement agencies and I go ahead.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Well on that real quick, they were receiving fines at one point, the DEC seems to have done as much as they're going to do. I don't know why, but we are the, We Are the Ulster County government, they are our residents. And at the very least, I think we need to attempt to bring them to the table, I

would love to see a standing committee or a special committee created where we invite all parties Central Hudson, CSX, town of Ulster, the residents, or some representative residents, and have the county of Ulster oversee that meeting and get it out there. This weekend spent look, if we can buy you know, a former legislator, \$600,000 geothermal heating system. And we can put things on private prop buildings on private property. Certainly, we could order and pay for a study to go in, especially if we got the approval from CSX and Central Hudson, which I doubt they tell the county "No," and go in there and

find out what's really going on. And then we'd know. But I do think jurisdictionally we need to get involved in this because these, these residents are getting left out to dry, which is kind of a pun. But there it's not okay. And if we're not going to do it, and the DEC doesn't appear to be doing it and the town of Ulster doesn't need to be seemed to be stepping up the county, should we step into things I don't think we ever should. I think this is something we should definitely step into

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erne.

Legislator Phil Erner

No, thanks.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, um, and I do want to put in a word for it used to be a Ulster - Sullivan mediation, I believe it's conflict resolution, something or another? This? Pardon?

Fawn Tantillo

The dispute resolution center.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes. This is something that if all parties were willing, they are extremely skilled, and the more we use conflict resolution and mediation and collaborative, solution-oriented conversations, and I can tell you having facilitated somewhere people were in court with each other and wouldn't even be in the same room there were so hostile, that if you can turn that dynamic around, that's when you get the best possible solutions. I will call on Legislator Rider and then who, who is the person that is representing the community. Is there one person,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

He does do petitions to discharge but he is not technically a legislator?

Fawn Tantillo

Caitlin, I believe as the spokesperson for this group,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. I see Caitlin's hand and then maybe one other, but I saw Legislator Rider's hand first.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Thank you. I take that as a compliment. Chair Greene, that you're calling me a legislator. I'm so what the only thing I want to just point out is like we have some really good engineers in Public Works and happy to have them go out and at least evaluate culvert sizes and whatever we can do, Jurisdictionally, happy to as much as we can coordinate a public meeting with these folks. I think jurisdictionally This is really in the town of bolstered building inspector department. If there's deficiencies, then I mean, we can get them together. And we can have them go out on site with some members of DPW. But they're the ones that can violate and do that kind of like give out violations and code violations and stormwater

runoff. And I mean, we might also if what you're saying Legislator Maloney is true that in there's actual risk of a derailment, like the FRA or somebody that that, you know, governs railroads should really be involved in this. It's a much bigger, you know, thing. It goes back to, unfortunately, we don't have jurisdiction over a railroad going back to the railroad barons, so but the FRA like, you know, we can try to have all of these groups, do a standing committee or a forum, you know, for people to speak out, I have no problem doing that. I just want to put expectations out that we don't have a lot of, you know, enforcement jurisdictions.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

They would be invitations, you know, and so far all parties seem to be saying they'd be willing, Marc, give me a call tomorrow. I'll give you a call tomorrow and maybe we can coordinate on coming up with some some kind of have a way to invite these, these all these parties in and have some of the residents have a seat at the table as well. And maybe the county mediates and gets to the bottom of what's going on. But as far as a normal mediator that we that used to be used between residents that are talking to these are \$2 billion corporations. I think we're going to need I think we're the county is going to need to be involved, the DEC is going to be need to be pulled back in and the town of Ulster needs to step up and start get, you know, start getting with it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I would also suggest that you reach out to Legislator Cahill. If it's in his district.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

District, and I've mentioned it to Dean, I'll talk to Dean tomorrow as well

Chair Manna Jo Greene

in Dean's district. Okay. So legislate you're all legislators. Caitlin, Caitlin Sanders, please, I see your hand.

Caitlin Sanders

Yes, thanks so much for having me. And I just want to thank legislators, Maloney and Erner for kind of coming to our aid here. Just to kind of zoom out a little bit. This is more than just a flooding issue. Basically, I represent a group of about 50 people that are around the perimeter of this training facility that was green lighted by the town without adequate vetting for many environmental issues which fall under your committee. And basically, it affects everyone downstream on the Esopus. So, it's not just say 50 people, it's the towns of Ulster and Saugerties all the way into, you know, the Hudson River. So, this training facility has caused noise pollution, sound pollution, you know, displaced millions of wildlife, clear cut 50, almost 50 acres of land. So It's way bigger than a flood.

But I'm going to focus on the three biggest issues right now, which are the CSX train derailment, the water quality, we have no idea what that that site used to be a former lumber yard, we have no idea what's going into the well water, and the flooding, which are threatening our homes and our property values. And so while we definitely want a seat at the table, like, you know, Legislator Maloney has suggested, and we've been talking with them for a year, on on these issues, we've submitted a letter to the town and got no response, we've asked for seven things, and most of them are studies, just so we

know what's going on, and how we're being affected. And we've gotten no response, we've sent letters to editors, we've, we've contacted so many people in the sustainability committee, or community that don't even want to touch this, because they want to be paid, and rightly so. But we don't have the funds to afford that. And they don't want to get political. So it's it's just been, you know, it's been a year really, of lack of, you know, quality of life. It's affecting everybody, you know, down our, you know, in our community, and could potentially create other environmental disasters.

So, we're asking for your help, whatever you can do to try and ameliorate, ameliorate some of the most threatening issues we, we would love. But ultimately, this is a story about the, the town and Central Hudson not, not actually having reverence for the environment, they basically just came in and seize the land, and didn't adequately that what they were going to do, and how they were going to affect residents and the environment. And so ultimately, we'd love a long term solution as well, so that this doesn't happen to another community. So that's all really I wanted to say, again, I you know, appreciate whatever you can do in terms of getting a some relief and getting some solutions to this, but also thinking long term and so that this doesn't happen to another community. And that's my piece.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Excellent. And I know that, you know, we have a really excellent Department of Environment. So, I'm glad that Nick is, is here, hearing this as well, in terms of are there things we could be doing to prevent situations like this? I would entertain one more person. It's getting late and we do have a little bit more business. Well, Caitlin, I think you spoke very eloquently for, for the neighbors adjacent to the property and it sounds like if a meeting is convened, hopefully we'll be able to use what I was speaking about and that is solution oriented, collaborative conversation, to, to come up with a solution that makes sense and and solves the problem. All those problems that you mentioned. Well, except possible contamination from groundwater into groundwater from, from the site. But certainly, the drainage problems are solvable.

And I want to point out that the second major collaboration that I facilitated, we allowed the lawyers to be present in case there were late legal questions. We had the stakeholders participate in the solution-oriented process. And if anyone knows of the, the old quarry in Quarryville that was filled with 600,000 tires. That was the first case and people were in court with each other going like this. And when we got them focused on creating solutions, their values became additive. And I understand well that Central Hudson is now a subsidiary of Fortis, and they're looking out for their shareholders. But it has to be done in a an environmentally and socially responsible way. Okay, thank you.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Chair, can we just put that on? Can we agree to put that on next months? Yes, old business. So, we will. And I will, I will be hitting Marc up tomorrow to start the process of requesting a friendly get together of all parties to see. Ultimately, I hope to kind of agree on a neutral firm or study to figure out who truly is at fault, maybe multiple people for this drainage, these drainage issues in particular, and then from there to figure out who's going to pay for the, you know, it may not even be that much, you know, for another drainage pond or a couple of culverts directing it towards Central Hudson's drainage pond or whatever else.

But it starts with getting all the parties together. And I'll be hitting mark up tomorrow. And I'll update everybody. And I'll be I know a couple of the residents over there and have your phone numbers. And I'll let you know over the next week or so. If what's going on, and I may need to get Catlin's, you have some contact information for some people from CSX. So maybe I'll go through you on that. Maybe Marc can talk to Central Hudson, and we can go from there. We can all call town. Have a call, Jim. All right. Thank you. So, it'll be on old business Dean as well. Yes. And I'll talk to Dean tomorrow as well.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

If I could just add to that our Department of Health would probably be able to do some testing of the well water since I'm reading, what Legislator Erner wrote out there. So, we're going to at least arrange for it to happen, and maybe we'll see if they can be on Central Hudson's dime.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Caylin, if you could get me if you could get me the list of the residents on that short strip that have wells. I know, I talked to the one individual and then we'll we'll I'll get that to you, Marc

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Great.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right, any other new business that needs to be attended to tonight? Okay, in terms of old business, I do want to be sure folks know that the Climate Smart Committee regularly meets on the fourth Monday of the month, and we will in July, but in August, it'll be the fifth Monday. And Department of Environment is sponsoring a Climate Smart Community Summit. But it's not limited to climate smart community members, it will focus on some of the news that these climate smart communities should be aware of. But it's open to anyone and I'll be reaching out to the Climate Reality Project. There is a new Hudson, Hudson Valley Climate Action Network and, and a lot of nonprofits that are working on climate issues and climate solutions. So, I think it's going to be very worthwhile and it's going to be hosted at the Rosendale Rec Center on route 32 by the pool. Same time or I think a little bit earlier if I'm not missing a live date. So earlier, right.

And then, um I mentioned the Ulster County Fair And the Green Living Expo and I really encourage, you know, there are businesses in this county, I just want to tip my hat to Hannaford who have a set 100%, renewable go for all of their facilities in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont. They're, they're really being extremely proactive, managing refrigerants Well, and, and very aware of what is needed for climate solutions. So, I'm going to try to encourage them to showcase what they're doing. And my I think there are enough people that care about the environment, and especially about the climate crisis, that if they know that there's a facility taking leadership, that they will, you know, be good, good for their business to showcase what they're doing at the Green Living Expo at the fair.

And if anybody else knows of businesses, I know Bread Alone is doing a lot of and, and I did ask Nick, if he would talk to Michael Darcy, and see if we can reach out to those that are either certified with the green business challenge or in the application process. So, you know, that means if they're in the application process, they're doing good things, and they're heading in the right direction. And I want to

thank everyone, it's been a challenging meeting. And I see Legislator Erner's hand maybe to make a motion?

Legislator Phil Erner

Well, I would love to, but I did want to just we can clear a couple of these items in like two minutes off the list. So we don't have to deal with them in the future. Or we don't have I don't know if that's true, but I can talk about them real quick. If I might,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

The first is that, about CHPE. As we know, we've memorialized the IDA to not grant a PILOT, and there's really no update. I heard from, from the CEO, Rose Woodworth, they haven't done anything yet. So that's no news. We don't know if that's good news. But just keep an eye on that. I've asked the IDA to let us know if when that comes up on the agenda, and to let the whole Legislature know that is the whole legislature. So that's that update.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Before you go any further, I just want to say that Legislator Petite, and I were at a meeting with the IDA. And this was, I'm gonna say about a year ago, and we had a wonderful conversation with them. And they were planning to give a higher ranking for in sustainability, which includes climate solutions. I don't think they've ever acted upon that. So, if you're in communication with Rose, or any of the IDA members, it's an idea that was a good idea at the time, but I haven't heard any, and also, um, I think it would be good if they take action on, on that pilot. But as you say, no, no, no, it was maybe goodness. All right.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Rose is no longer with the IDA. They did not renew their contract with roses company. So she's no longer with them.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Who is our legislative... there's somebody there's a liaison from the legislature, to the IDA?

Fawn Tantillo

They do report to the Economic Development Committee.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

.All right. Go ahead, Legislator Erner, you have other items.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. other quick thing. Let's see here. The okay, what's quick, just just following up with and thank you. I want to thank this so much neighbors so much for giving us their time tonight and sharing their

concerns. And I had I had suggested a possible if this works with us basically being a moderator or referee.

Maybe we go further and create some sort of formal role that the county can play when this happens, but we don't necessarily need to discuss that tonight. But just put planting that seed out there. That I just wanted to say that after, after their presentation and the only other thing that's, that's quick is just you know what? Nevermind. I'm, I'm done. Motion to adjourn.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, we can get back to it in in August. And we'll see everybody a little bit early on. Is it the 19th? Is there a second to the motion to adjourn?

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Hansut and, and a third by Legislator Maloney. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Anyone opposed? Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Good night, everybody.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you all.