

Energy & Environment Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: July 11, 2016
Howard C. St. John Business Seminar Room, Clinton Hall, SUNY Ulster,
Stone Ridge

PRESIDING OFFICER: Deputy Chairman Tracey Bartels

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
Jonathan Heppner, Ron G. Lapp, Jr. and Mary Wawro

EXCUSED: Richard Parete

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Manna Jo Greene; Dennis Doyle, Director of Ulster County
Planning; Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountainkeeper; Robert Gallenz

Deputy Chairman Bartels called the meeting to order at 6.PM.

MOTION NO. 1 RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of May 9, 2016

Motion Made By: Legislator Wawro

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes approved as presented

Motion No. 2 – Resolution No. 323 - Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Environmental Management Council

Resolution Summary: Confirming the reappointment to the Environmental Management Counsel made by the County Executive of William More, Kingston, NY for a term from the present through June 30, 2019.

Motion Made By: Legislator Wawro

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

Discussion: Legislator Heppner noted Mr. More’s impressive resume.
Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 3 – To approve Resolution No. 341 - Adopting And Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Installation of a Solar Project on the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency’s Closed Landfill in the Town of Ulster - Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: Ulster County is developing a solar project on the site of the former Town of Ulster landfill. The County completed and expanded Environmental Evaluation of Impacts and Negative Declaration as required under SEQRA. This resolution would adopt and issue the Negative Declaration for the project.

Motion Made By: Legislator Wawro

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

Discussion: Planning Director Doyle distributed maps and charts of the site and gave a detailed description of the 2.5 megawatt solar project and answered legislator’s questions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 3 – To approve Resolution No. 342 - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Easement Agreement with the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, For the Construction, Installation, And Maintenance of Solar Energy Generation Equipment And Related Appurtenances – Department of Planning.

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Legislature to execute, on behalf of the County, any and all documents related to the solar project on the site of the former Town of Ulster landfill.

Motion Made By: Legislator Wawro

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: Planning Director Doyle noted that on the night of the Legislative vote it is important that Resolution No. 341 declaring a Negative Declaration be approved before Resolution No. 342.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Old Business:

Solar Projects – the members discussed plans for a solar project at the SUNY Ulster Campus.

Climate Smart Committee (CSC)– Legislator Greene explained that the Energy Improvement Commission (EIC) PACE Financing System and other ways to finance energy retrofits has been a main focus of the CSC. The CSC is working the Suzanne Holt, the County Executive’s Office and various Chambers of Commerce to reach out to businesses. She said there are at least three projects under development with EIC in Ulster County. Dutchess County has signed on. To date no projects have completed the process.

Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission – Legislator Bartels said that the committee has been meeting weekly and hopes to have a draft to share by the end of August. She detailed the travel and intense meeting schedule the commission is using to get the report finished.

Plastic Bag Legislation – Legislator Bartels wants to continue discussions with the Ulster County Environmental Management Counsel (EMC) regarding plastic bag legislation. She indicated that various municipalities are considering legislation and want to discuss doing something county wide rather than town by town. She hopes to discuss this in more detail when representatives of the EMC attend an upcoming meeting.

Networking with EMC – Legislator Bartels discussed the importance of networking with the EMC. She plans to reach out to municipalities that are not represented on the EMC to ask for representatives.

Recycling Oversight Committee – Legislator Bartels noted that local law requires a Recycling oversight committee and that it had not met in a while. She hopes the committee can address this.

Renewing the Energy Vision - Legislator Heppner reminded the members that a letter regarding concerns about Renewing the Energy Vision (REV) of the Public Service Commission. It was signed by a bipartisan group of legislators who had concern about the proposed 3.5 Billion in rate payer subsidies. He discussed a recent article in the TH Record about this issue. He expressed concern about the lack of oversight for these subsidies.

Deputy Chairman Bartels asked if there was any other business, hearing none

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Lapp
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7:25

Respectfully submitted: Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: August 8, 2016