



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2023**

This meeting was held by Zoom

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Lora Schilling		X
Keri Ann Wright		X
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development		X
Kelsey West, CCEDC	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the October 2023 meeting was made by Pete Berasi with a second by Nancy Severns; all were in favor.

Correspondence:

1. Email from Kerry Russell, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Solid Waste Management, The 2024 Earth Day event will be held at the Vassar Barn, Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm. She wants to know if we’ll participate.
2. Email from Nicholas Bonamo about rewilding his property, Nancy responded.

3. Email from Peggy Farrington about a project to fulfill the requirements of an environmental science course.
4. Follow up email from Simon Skolnik, NYSACC on Trees vs. Solar Farms.

Website update: Updates on the Peach Hill project were added.

Funds Update: Kelsey updated the group on expenditures for training on rain barrels; materials will cost \$825 for 25 rain barrels; planning for the community workshop to be held in 2024. The group discussed involving the Peach Hill project.

2024 Meeting Dates: Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar TBA, Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 23, Dec 4

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy said there have not been general meetings although there have been subcommittee meetings. Kelsey said they are getting all the actions in the portal to reapply for bronze certification in January. Certification expires after 5 years and Dutchess's certification will expire. The intention is to apply for silver certification in July when some of the projects such as the GHG inventory and Climate Action Plan are complete.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Jim informed the group that the alliance is still working on organizing. The watershed workshop took place at the Farm & Home Center December 5, 2023 and was attended by members of all watershed groups in the County.

Solid Waste Management: The group discussed the new Solid Waste Management Plan. Vicky will start the discussion with a list of the items that resonated and a potential to do list.

Natural Resource Inventory: Kelsey updated the group that the NRI will be completed by the end of December 2023.

Road Salt: The Red Hook town board expressed interest in a presentation about road salt and information about brine. Vicky can do a presentation about the environmental effects and Bob Wyant, Rhinebeck's highway superintendent is willing to talk about his brine operation. Vicky is in conversation with Riverkeeper about road salt advocacy.

Peach Hill Green Infrastructure Project: No new updates.

Other Business:

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Severns. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is January 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.