

MINUTES

Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission August 13, 2015

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Location: Marbletown Town Hall
3775 Main St.
Stone Ridge, NY 12484

Members Present: [X] Tom Konrad (Chair)
[X] Doug Adams (Town Board Representative)
[X] Eric Stewart
[X] Jim Cave
[] Paul diGrazia
[X] Iris Marie Bloom

In Attendance: Jason Zimmerman (prospective member)
Margot Becker (prospective member)
Stuart Greenfield (former member)

6:40p **Introductions, Approval of July Minutes**
July minutes were approved via email prior to the meeting.

6:42p **Hudsonia Biodiversity**
A biodiversity subcommittee was formed with Eric, Margot & Jim. They will review the town's biodiversity assessment of 2006/2012, with a focus on the recommendations section.

Jim felt that current set-back recommendations of 750 feet were unduly restrictive. Tom suggested the Subcommittee make recommendations to the Town Board following its review of the assessment.

7:05p **Logging Ordinance**
Tom suggested using the biodiversity subcommittee to develop proposals for a potential forestry ordinance. Jim offered to work on a forestry "best practices" presentation for homeowners, woodcutters and commercial loggers.

7:20p **Pollinator Garden**
Eric has lined up possible donations for plants, topsoil and mulch. He has found several areas on the property that could serve as garden space. He also talked with the Boy Scouts about help with labor, but has not yet received a firm commitment. He suggested holding off on plans for an apiary until the garden is in place.

There is a possibility business donors might want signs placed at or near the garden. Tom said the ECC would need to make sure any signs are of a

consistent size and not too large. Several members had ideas for public donations, including a fundraiser, adopt-a-bench and adopt-a-brick.

7:33p

Plastic Bag Ban

The BlueStone Press published Tom's member-approved poll to get feedback on the possible ban. Of the responses already received, four arrived electronically and another arrived through the mail. Through this poll and face-to-face inquiries, it appears a fee-based program is an unpopular idea.

Tom's suggestion was to wait for more responses before drafting any suggested legislation for the Board. Several members had ideas related to the ban including an education campaign and reusable bag giveaways.

7:45p

Plastic Straws

To help reduce plastic production, disposal and litter, ECC members are looking into ways to cut disposable straw use across Marbletown, and are trying to go straw-free for a month.

Iris is conducting research and compiling talking points.

7:54p

Rondout Creek Walk

Jim, Margot and Jason gave a collective update on Rochester's progress in planning for the September event. Margot stated her intention to attend WAVE training, scheduled for August 24th in Accord.

8:02p

Climate Smart Communities Program

Jason described the amount of CSC resources available online and said he has completed the initial organization. He is gathering information on Marbletown's current and past environmental projects as a way to build points toward certification. The Commission voted to name him CSC Coordinator.

8:20p

Recruitment

Members voted to recommend that the Board consider Jason's application for ECC membership. As a way to help stagger terms, Doug suggested having him replace former member Hallie Schwab, whose term was set to end in 2017.

Margot will prepare a resume/cover letter and email them to members for review.

8:32p

New Business

Eric has started contacting members of other communities regarding their efforts to slow or stop the use of herbicides on roadways.

Doug passed along a request from Supervisor Warren, who would like the ECC to offer ideas on improving the way Marbletown's municipal solid waste (MSW) and recyclables are handled.

Doug used the remaining meeting time to educate members on the town's overall waste-management challenges.

8:45p

Adjourn

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting; Jim seconded.

The Marbletown ECC is an advisory commission that meets at 6:30p on the second Thursday of every month. The meetings are held at Town Hall and are open to the public. Please consult the calendar at <http://www.marbletown.net> for confirmed meeting dates and times.