

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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Darwin Keung, Corresponding Secretary

Joanna Galdone
Gillian Ballard
Ryan Goolic
Bill Herguth
Catherine Mazzocchi

Environmental Management Council Native/Invasive Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: February 15, 2022 / 5:00 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting

A virtual meeting of the Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Native/Invasive Working Group was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Video and audio portions of the meeting were recorded.

Members present: Joanna Galdone, Catherine Mazzocchi, Glenn Sungela.

Members excused: none.

Staff present: Nicole Laible, Executive Director.

Members absent: none.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm. Roll call was conducted and quorum was present.
2. The 2020/2021 Work Plan was reviewed and accomplishments were noted, including County approval of a native plant garden in a wetland portion of Kennedy Dells county park. The NIWG agreed to continue to work on outstanding objectives except for B.f clarify use of pesticides and herbicides on county property.
3. The NIWG reviewed proposed changes to information about invasive species on the Division of Environmental Resources' Additional Resources web page. Motion to approve of the changes was made by Catherine, seconded by Joanna, and passed unanimously with two changes: 1) add information about NYSDEC's Uninvited video; 2) supplement with text to announce the changes on the county's public communications platform e.g. Rockland County Government facebook page. The NIWG discussed adding information about native plant species and the importance of

contextualizing the information such as noting the benefits of planting native vs. non-native plants and impact on biodiversity. Joanna and Glenn will work on creating supporting content.

4. The NIWG discussed a policy proposed by Glenn at the December, 2021 Parks Commission meeting to prohibit the propagation of regulated invasive plant species in county parks. Joanna suggested the policy be framed in positive terms such as only native plants may be propagated in county parks. Glenn will reword the proposed policy for the NIWG to review.
5. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm. Motion to adjourn made by Catherine, seconded by Joanna, passed unanimously.

DRAFT