

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Glenn Sungela
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Catherine Mazzocchi
Vice Chairperson
Darwin Keung
Corresponding Secretary
Gabriella Dwyer
Joanna Galdone
Elizabeth Lamoureux
Natalie Patasaw

Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Meeting
Tuesday March 19th, 2024 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
11 New Hempstead Road, New City, County Executive's Conference room

Minutes

Members Present: Glenn Sungela, Natalie Patasaw, Beth Lamoreaux, Joanna Galdone, Catherine Mazzocchi, Darwin Keung, Gabi Dwyer

Staff Present: Brianna Rosamilia (DER)

Public: Rich Schiafo (County Planning Department) and Tayo Tyler (County Sustainability Coordinator).

Meeting opened at 5:54 pm.

1. Roll call and meeting called to order.
2. Introductions with Rich Schiafo and Tayo Tyler.
3. Minutes and Recording Secretary
 - a. 07/26/23 meeting minutes: **C. Mazzocchi motioned to approve. D. Keung seconded. All approved. Passed unanimously.**
 - b. Gabi Dwyer to record meeting minutes for 03/19/24 meeting.
4. Proposed Meeting Dates 2024
 - a. Third Tuesday in the month every month

- iv. **G. Sungela entertains the motion. G. Dwyer motions to approve. B. Lamoreaux seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Passed unanimously.**
 - v. C. Mazzocchi will circulate the rubric, theme, and PowerPoint. Will circulate to the teachers.
 - d. EMC action plan for 2024.
 - i. N. Patasaw mentions sending more letters to elected officials about environmental legislation.
 - 1. PFAS Free New York – pushing four bills:
 - a. Consumer and Household Products
 - b. Menstrual Products
 - c. PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act
 - 2. Bills are stuck in committees, need to move to the house floor, could eventually move to the governor’s desk.
 - 3. Discussion followed between members. EMC can draft letters to send to the County Executive, need to get clarification or approval to send letters to other elected officials.
 - 4. Challenges include length of the letters, how fast the board can move, how to make quorum to approve the letters. A proposed process would be to have a draft letter template, give all EMC members time to review and give feedback, then send the letter to the County Executive.
 - 5. Task: N. Patasaw to draft letters for the four PFAS bills discussed at today’s meeting.
 - 6. The board agrees to add PFAS letter advocacy to the EMC action plan for 2024
 - ii. Keep Rockland Beautiful – Park Cleanups – something the EMC may support.
 - 1. G. Sungela – EMC “sponsors” an event – get the EMC on a sign.
 - 2. B. Lamoreaux – EMC could coordinate a clean up day “sponsored” (through committee member volunteer work), publicize the committee through community action.
 - 3. N. Patasaw will inquire with Keep Rockland Beautiful.
 - 4. G. Sungela – Wait to put this on the action items list, until we can determine how the EMC will be highlighted.
8. Public Participation
- a. R. Schiafo -- Planning Department updating County Comprehensive Plan – onboarding a contractor and will be in process for the next 18-22 months. If EMC would like to be involved, begin now.
 - i. C. Mazzocchi – Is an outside firm usually provided? Catherine has feedback on the people who ran the Orangetown comprehensive plan.
 - ii. R. Schiafo – Contractor not chosen yet, but it will be a comprehensive planning team of multiple parties. Key part will be community/stakeholder engagement, which is where the EMC will come in.
 - b. R. Schiafo – County Wide Climate Smart Task Force – coming soon, but EMC participation is welcome and encouraged. A matter of when at this point.

9. Member Updates

- a. Chairperson's report
- b. Communication with and between board members – be courteous and responsive of others. Be sure to check County issued e-mail addresses. Request a password reset if you cannot access the e-mail.

10. Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 16th @ 5:30 pm.

11. Adjourn at 6:58 pm.