**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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| **Brianna Rosamilia***Executive Director* | **Glenn Sungela***Chairperson***Catherine Mazzocchi***Vice Chairperson***Darwin Keung***Corresponding Secretary*Gabriella DwyerJoanna GaldoneElizabeth LamoureuxNatalie Patasaw |

Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Meeting

Tuesday June 18th, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
11 New Hempstead Road, New City, County Executive’s Conference room

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Glenn Sungela, Catherine Mazzocchi, Darwin Keung, Gabriella Dwyer, Joanna Galdone, Elizabeth Lamoreux, Natalie Patasaw

**Staff Present:** Brianna Rosamilia (DER)

**Public:** Gregory Sheehan (Prospective EMC Member)

**Meeting opened at 5:45pm.**

1. Roll call and call meeting to order.
2. Minutes - 3/19/24 meeting and Recording Secretary current meeting.
	1. Notes for 3/19/24 minutes
		1. Point 7 needs to be relabeled to agency update, not old business.
		2. Add year under date at top.
	2. **C. Mazzochi motioned to approve with edits. J. Galdone seconded. All approved. No opposed or abstentions. Passed unanimously.**
	3. G Dwyer to record 6/18/24 Meeting Minutes.
3. New Business
	1. Approve 2023 EMC accomplishments and activities.
		1. **G Sungela motioned to approve. G Dwyer seconded. All approved. No opposed or abstentions. Passed unanimously.**
	2. Consider and decide on food-scrap recycling campaign to non-participating towns elected officials and community leaders.
		1. B. Lamoreux – Does the town get funding for this?
			1. G. Sungela – Rockland Green provides most of the materials and the transport to Hillburn processing facility to convert the food scraps into mulch. Mulch is intended to be sold to businesses.
				1. Clarkstown model – residents pay nothing. Clarkstown gives the whole kit for free. Drop off at the Clarkstown highway facility in Nanuet.
				2. Orangetown model – no longer charges for bags. Does charge for accessory materials, but the bags are free.
		2. B. Lamoreux – Haverstraw distributes organic matter given by compost. What does that program look like? Make sure other programs aren’t being used before we send a letter.
			1. There is a program separate from food scraps that Haverstraw participates in, but not the food scraps program – This may be an existing service where Rockland Green provides mulch to towns to make available to their residents
		3. J. Galdone – Cornell Cooperative Extension Composting Course – encourage residents to compost on their own as well, doing it on your own works too!
			1. B. Lamoreux – the libraries used to teach composting
			2. County fliers used to direct residents to CCE on compost questions.
		4. C. Mazzocchi – What statistics can Rockland Green provide for us to encourage other towns to participate in the program?
			1. Rockland Green has data on pounds composted. The towns have the data on enrollment.
		5. G. Sungela – this letter is about getting non-participating county towns and villages to commit to the food scrap recycling program. The towns and villages determine the best way to communicate the program to their residents.
		6. C. Mazzocchi – what is in it for the town?
			1. G. Sungela – provides an easy and highly impactful way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change
			2. B. Lamoreaux – reduced hauling fees potentially – but cannot be quantified yet.
		7. G. Sheehan – Theresa Kenney was talking about this program in a meeting this week – so people are talking about the program.
		8. D. Keung – Could farmers markets be a location for a food scrap recycling program?
			1. G. Sungela – Rockland composters have been advocating for 2 years about this program. Peekskill recently created a food scrap drop off at its farmers market.
			2. C. Mazzocchi – once we have that partnership, we can help with other aspects of getting the program started.
		9. **G. Sungela motioned to develop and send a letter to non-participating towns and villages elected officials to participate in the food scrap recycling program. C. Mazzocchi seconded. All approved. No opposed or abstentions. Passed unanimously. Letter to be approved in August, Communications Committee to draft.**
	3. Farmer’s Market discussion – recommendations on how they are listed, wording on the website.
		1. D. Keung – the connection to transit options and payment options are great.
		2. C. Mazzocchi – formatting
			1. Two columns with dates and times
		3. B. Rosamilia – this list is housed under news currently, but we can ask for it to be moved.
		4. G. Sungela – the content is under the Department of Health under Nutrition. EMC can offer suggestions on better ways to communicate.
			1. The layout on the DOH website is different.
		5. B. Rosamilia – is this list comprehensive?
			1. G. Sungela – Farmers Market has to meet specific food access thresholds to be considered
		6. B. Rosamilia – Where should this be housed?
			1. C. Mazzocchi – on the home page, since it is seasonal.
				1. D. Keung agrees.
			2. G. Sungela – what is the best way to release this information?
				1. B. Rosamilia– The list we have lives on the news page because it is a press release. The better version to edit is the version on the web page/document.
		7. B. Rosamilia – suggestions for formatting the web design is out of the County Staff scope of work. Web design is a third-party contractor.
			1. G. Sungela – the formatting on the brochure is not better.
			2. B. Lamoreux – having a link to a permanent location or putting the brochure on a main page as a seasonal/circular item.
				1. There is an approval process the farmers market owners can go through to be advertised on the website.
		8. G. Sungela – the current list is targeting multiple audiences, which makes the marketing more difficult.
		9. B. Rosamilia – the actionable item is suggesting the brochure can be on the rockland.gov home page.
		10. **D. Keung motioned to suggest the EMC adds the Farmers Market brochure to the home page of the Rockland County government website. B. Lamoreux seconded. All approved. No opposed or abstentions. Passed unanimously.**
4. Working Group updates
	1. Carbon Reduction - see minutes from 3/19/24 and 4/16/24 meetings.
		1. The carbon reduction working group met with the Sustainability Coordinator to get clarity on current sustainability work. In parallel, B. Rosamilia communicating with Dept. of Transportation, who provided information on the use of recent grant funds.
		2. Climate Smart Community Certification updates:
			1. There will be a Climate Smart Community Task Force
			2. Driving force will be GHG inventory.
			3. Putting the task force together will take about a year.
		3. County air-quality alerts now reference greenhouse gas emissions from engine idling, at the EMC’s request.
		4. B. Lamoreux – the consultant looked at what needed to be done to promote sustainability, they did not create the actual climate action plan. That will be the Sustainability Coordinator’s job.
	2. Communications - None
	3. Native/Invasive - Invasive species control and pollinator garden.
		1. J. Galdone has been tending to the pollinator garden. Added plants.
		2. Need to address hose/water – make sure we address getting the plants water. G. Sungela and D. Keung to address this upcoming weekend.
		3. J. Galdone – Rockland County losing beech trees, Deer eating the seedlings, and caterpillars killing the trees. How to entertain this with the county? Want to meet with the parks commission, but it has not met recently.
			1. B. Rosamilia – Joanna to send the information on planting new trees, and Brianna to add item to the agenda for the next meeting.
		4. J. Galdone - Increased stormwater runoff undermined the bank and gravity took an oak tree down at Crum creek.
	4. Other Items
		1. There are spotted lanternfly (SLF) circular traps that can go up at Haverstraw Bay Park, but the Park Manager doesn’t want them accessible to the public so people can’t bother them, suggested putting them in trees that were farther away from the main areas of the park.
		2. G. Sungela removed 31 and 213 spotted lantern fly egg masses from Dutch Gardens and Haverstraw Bay Park, respectively.
5. Agency updates
	1. Board members’ ability to update county web pages and social media – only staff members of the County of Rockland are permitted to make website and social media updates.
	2. Member recruiting update – Increase in interest in joining the board after legislature helped promote it, 5 inquiries since the end of 2023 to present. Nine inquiries made since the end of 2022. Two pending resolutions to be voted on at the next legislature meetings.
	3. Updates to EMC brochure and flyer - the updated EMC brochure and recruitment flier were updated to the website.
	4. Update regarding EMC communications with the CE’s office. The EMC will have to vote on the material they want to present to the CE’s office. Brianna will send it over to the communications director. If the board would like the CE to support legislation in the form of a letter, the EMC must vote on the letter template (either one that was already created or one that the EMC drafts) and that will be sent to the communications director with additional information on the bill/item of support. Letters that are sent to the state are best sent at the beginning of the legislative session.
		1. N. Patasaw– It can be difficult to send letters at the beginning of the session, as there are special sessions that take place and things come up. The legislature has the be called back for congestion pricing. Lobbyists in Albany think there will be a special session.
		2. G. Sungela –The EMC cannot go into the legislature items right now. Brianna can add these items to the next agenda.
	5. EMC Creative Arts Contest Recognition Ceremony Updates - ~ 30 people attended, 7 of the 8 selected recipients attended, social media postings were shared after the event.
		1. C. Mazzocchi – Most of the winners came, County Executive Ed Day was there. Overall, a successful event. All the kids gave a presentation.
		2. G. Sungela – Catherine, thank you for your contributions to the program.
		3. B. Rosamilia – Brianna got the certificate to the absent student.
6. Old Business
	1. Green spotlight program – new admin in DER will be able to make posts.
		1. B. Rosamilia - Melissa Murphy can make more posts on the social media. Kevin is in favor of posting more. Call to action for EMC Members to recommend more items to post in the program.
			1. Electronic vehicle charging station post is ready.
			2. Beth Cefalu has been helpful with editing the content (composting, EV).
7. Public participation – none.
8. Member Updates
	1. Chairperson’s report
	2. J. Galdone – Updated information on Indian Point. Officially shut down.
		1. N. Patasaw – There is discussion on the decommissioning process.
9. Next meeting – August 20th @ 5:30 pm
10. Adjourn
	1. Adjourn at 6:53pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Gabi Dwyer*