

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center
50 Sanatorium Road, Building A, 6th Floor
Pomona, New York 10970
Phone: (845) 364-2670 Fax: (845) 364-2671
Email: env@co.rockland.ny.us

Brianna Rosamilia
Executive Director

Glenn Sungela
Chairperson
Catherine Mazzocchi
Vice Chairperson
Darwin Keung
Corresponding Secretary
Gabriella Dwyer
Joanna Galdone
Elizabeth Lamoureux
Natalie Patasaw
Gregory Sheehan
James Leo Sklar

Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
August 20, 2024, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
11 New Hempstead Road, New City, CE's Conference room

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Glenn Sungela, Catherine Mazzocchi, Darwin Keung, Joanna Galdone, Elizabeth Lamoureux, Gregory Sheehan, James Sklar

Members excused: Gabriella Dwyer, Natalie Patasaw

Staff Present: Brianna Rosamilia (DER)

Public: Michelle Kleinman (DOH)

1. Roll call, call meeting to order (5:39 pm), and welcome new members
 - a. Greg Sheehan is a construction engineer; here to fight the good fight, having seen impacts of development and environmental costs. Looking to help support sustainable development projects. Would like to see floating solar on Lake Deforest. Currently on leave to be Elijah's campaign manager.
 - b. James Sklar, yoga teacher; Loves helping others getting at their aha moments. Grew up eating organic in Wisconsin. Concerned with overuse of pesticides and interested in regenerative farming.
2. Minutes from 6/18 meeting and recording secretary for 8/20/24
 - a. Beth volunteered to take the minutes.

- b. Catherine made a motion to approve the 6/18 meeting minutes with suggested edits, Darwin seconded
 - i. Greg and James abstained
 - ii. Approved unanimously
- 3. Moved up from old business: Guest Michelle Kleiman
 - a. Passionate dietician
 - b. Working with the County for 20 years
 - c. During Covid Michelle took an environmental science class, which impacted her work positively.
 - i. Here to talk about farmers markets. Distributed a new brochure and explained why two Rockland farmer's markets from their site, in response to Glenn's inquiry.
 - 1. The reason is that only markets that participate in food voucher programs (e.g., WIC, FMNP, FreshConnect checks) are eligible for listing. Piermont and Pearl River are not on it because they do not participate.
 - ii. Questions?
 - 1. Greg asked what is local; Michelle said any state that touches NY
 - 2. Greg asked what they can buy; Michelle responded that any whole produce or plant are included.
 - 3. Michelle informed us that Rockland has 45 food pantries, and that does not include soup kitchens.
 - iii. Michelle suggested that the food recovery program rocklandhunger.org might be another interest topic for EMC.
 - 1. Glenn noted that our interest in food waste is getting it out of the waste stream.
- 4. Working group updates
 - a. Carbon reduction – none
 - b. Communications - none
 - c. Native/Invasives
 - i. Brianna got the sign for the pollinator garden and gave it to the County Park Rangers today.
 - ii. American chestnut seedlings; Joanna and Glenn had several rounds of correspondence with County parks and gained an understanding of how to make the request for plantings:
 - 1. Need to provide Brianna with a shared document describing maintenance requirements, division of labor (EMC and/or other).
 - 2. Glenn will work on it and a best management practice document on Tree of Heaven.
- 5. Old business
 - a. Glenn asked about the letter on food scrap recycling. Catherine said she will work on that this month.
 - b. 2023 achievements document
 - i. Brianna, with input from Kevin McGuinness, made some edits (as shown in meeting packet)
 - c. Green spotlight
 - i. Looking for more participation from members; Brianna can work with DER's principal account clerk to put on Facebook page.

6. New business
 - a. EMC and water quality committee (WQC)
 - i. Brianna explained that it is an ad hoc and operates differently from other County boards. They meet virtually, quarterly, and are looking for participation so wanted to know whether we want to continue to participate.
 - ii. Motion to continue EMC participation in the WQC as a non-voting affiliate member.
 1. Catherine made a motion, Greg seconded.
 2. Passed unanimously
 - b. Updates on EMCs online presence
 - i. Members discussed and agreed on suggested online presence items.
 - ii. Glenn made a motion to approve as listed in the document, Catherine seconded
 - iii. Unanimously approved
 - c. Glenn requested motion to approve James in the Native/Invasive Working Group (NIWG)
 - i. Joanne made motion and Greg seconded
 - ii. Passed unanimously
7. Member updates
 - a. Reminders for member conduct
 - i. County email; personal emails should not be used for EMC communication
 - ii. Reminder that when you represent EMC, everyone has to be on board; personal views cannot be expressed as an EMC message without discussion and approval
 - b. Joanna added comments about trees; there is no regeneration of native trees; deer are eating everything; wants to put out some statement on deer management and invasive species management.
 - c. Greg mentioned the long path connection might provide opportunities for open space and integration with native planting/land management.
 - d. James mentioned the landscaper, Second Nature (Clarkstown) uses pesticides at memorial parks (e.g., Bardonia) and would like to look into working with Beyond Pesticides to identify two parks and transition to pesticide-free plantings (e.g., natives)
 - e. Brianna requested members to fill out the affidavit certifying no conflict of interest, and passed out copies.
 - i. Members had questions about NCOI, Brianna will follow up.
8. Meeting adjourned at 6:58

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Lamoureux.