

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes  
April 17, 2024

**Present:**

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman  
Noel Russ  
Nina Nichols  
Laura Petit  
Julie Brinkman

**Also Present:**

Leg. Manna Jo Green  
Town Board Liaison Evelyn Clarke  
Craig Hightower, Sun Common

**Excused:**

Cynthia McVay  
Jenna Ice  
Chris DeCicco

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:15 p.m.

**Old Business:**

**Membership:** Jenna Ice's application was approved by the Town Board. Ellie Gartenstein had a new career position with the NYS DEC and had resigned from the Esopus Environmental Board due to a conflict of interest. There are two (2) vacancies now on the Environmental Board.

Laura Petit introduced guest Manna Jo Green. Legislator Green was a Member of the Implementation Working Group promoting the Ulster County Renewable Energy Implementation Plan (REIP). There was a virtual workshop scheduled for April 23, 2024, to explain how to find the Municipality's electric load. Each municipality was being asked to utilize the solar mapping tool application and provide information relative to the Town. Information related to the workshop was provided in a handout (annexed hereto). She requested a list of known projects be provided, review the queue and Craig/Cal would assist with the mapping. Their draft report was due by the end of June. Laura Petit stated that Leg. Green would be attending the Last Frost Festival and would be providing information on this topic at the event. Screen, laptop and projector would be needed and Leg. Green indicated she should be able to provide same. Leg. Green requested Councilperson Clarke inform the Town Board of the intentions of the Renewable Energy Implementation Working Group and its initiative. Craig agreed to be liaison to the Esopus Environmental Board if there were any questions.

Motion to accept resignation of Ellie Gartenstein, seconded by Laura Petit and all in favor, the resignation was accepted.

**Minutes:** Motion by Laura Petit, seconded by Noel Russ and all in favor, the March 20, 2024, minutes as amended were approved.

**UC EMC** - March meeting was cancelled and there were no minutes.

**Tree Clearing Policy** – Nina Nichols had provided a tree policy from the Town of Ossining. Mark Ellison was receptive to merging aspects of the T/O Ossining Policy with the Town of New Paltz. The policy would need to be accepted by the Town, Planning Board, and Building Inspector. Nina would merge the two documents, send to Chairman for review first, prior to approaching the Town.

**Union Center Road** – Member Noel Russ walked the area after a significant rainfall and took videos. He did not see an option to take mitigating plans regarding the roads and mitigation may need to take place

on an adjacent property. Noel Russ would locate the video and provide. Ms. Karabec was present and indicated that the direction of the stormwater runoff had abated to a certain degree.

Nina Nichols had obtained fencing for the garden in Connelly and wanted to ensure that appropriate actions were taken if any paperwork was required.

Mark Ellison had been attempting to coordinate a meeting with Liaison Clarke, Nina Nichols, Supervisor Freer, Laura Freer, Chris DiCicco and himself and would be providing a list of dates to the Supervisor. On the discussion list was obtaining a grant writer, alternate members, Zoom meeting option, EV charging stations, Planning Board Liaison, and use of Ulster County DEC Arbor trees for Spring plantings.

**New Business:**

**Environmental Board Responsibilities** -Chairman Ellison had provided materials to review. Members were asked to develop what its role should be.

**Grant Status** – Two grants were still being sought relative to EV Charging Stations and heating/cooling unit installations. Chris DeCicco would be tasked with following up.

**Climate Smart Task Force:** Laura Petit

**Last Frost Festival** – Laura Petit provided a list of projects, vendors and educational displays that were participating on May 18, 2024, on Broadway from 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Julie Brinkman maybe providing vegan soups, Laura Petit would inquire about availability of a DJ and Nina Nichols would be reaching out to Lee Gough regarding native plant giveaway. Chris DeCicco had provided design for the signage and invoice was provided to Mark Ellison to submit for payment.

**Repair Café** – Event taking place on March 23 at the Ascension Parish Hall, West Park. Mark Ellison read list of coaches who included a tinkerer, seamstress, photo repair and storage, jewelry, woodworking and possibly persons for general and electrical repairs.

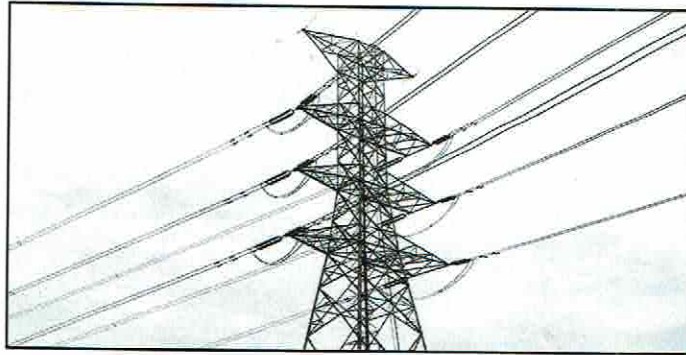
Hudson Valley Regional Council meeting next Wednesday on April 24, 2024, via Zoom if anyone had interest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary  
Dated: April 17, 2024  
Approved: May 15, 2024



## Understanding Municipal Electric Loads and the Interconnection Queue



**Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m.**

As a next step in the **Ulster County Renewable Energy Implementation Plan (REIP)**, please join us for a focused workshop that will explain how to find your municipality's electric load and how to work with the spreadsheet for the Central Hudson and NYSEG Interconnection Queue. Please join the Ulster County 70x30 Renewable Energy Implementation Working Group for a presentation on **Understanding Municipal Electric Loads and the Interconnection Queue**, featuring Marbletown ECC Chair Tom Konrad and Simon Strauss, Chair of the Town of Olive Conservation Advisory Council.

In order for Ulster County to achieve NY State's initial Climate Goal of 70% renewable energy generation with storage and efficiency, municipality by municipality, we will need to know how much renewable energy is already generated, what is the total load consumed in each municipality and what is their capacity to connect new generation to the grid. Tom and Simon will walk you through this step by step, with a question and answer session that will leave participants well-prepared to create or update a Renewable Energy Generation Plan for their town or city.

With the global climate crisis worsening, it is urgent to take effective action and NY's Climate Action and Community Protect Act (CLCPA) is a great place to start to ensure the transition to a Renewable Energy Economy. If it can be done anywhere, it can be done here in Ulster County! We have all the right ingredients: appropriate space, high motivation, shared expertise, and a desire to make a difference. Let's be the first county to accomplish this – and show the rest of the State what we're made of!

This program is free, but registration is required at <https://forms.gle/6aUxmiHKv5CKpMQi6>

**For further information, please contact:**  
Manna Jo Greene, 845-807-1270 or [mannajo@gmail.com](mailto:mannajo@gmail.com)

Environmental Board -

4/17/24 EB meeting