

## **Minutes of the EMC General Meeting July 11, 2007**

**Present:** Glynn Bebee, Kenny Christianson, John Dennis, Herb Engman, Keith Epstein, Martha Ferger, Neha Khanna, Dan Lamb, Michael Miles, Larry Sallinger, Cindy Schulte, Roger Segelken, Jacie Spoon, Marisssa Weiss, Mark Whitmore, Roger Yonkin

**Excused:** Stan Marcus, Ashley Miller, Steve Nicholson, Martha Robertson, Larry Sharpsteen, Gary Stewart, Lucia Tyler,

**Absent:** Jon Baker, Bob Roe,

**Associates:** Joyce Gerbasi, Dooley Kiefer

**Guests:** Tim Woods (Town of Dryden), Cornelia Yoder

**Staff:** Joan Jurkowich

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Neha Khanna at 7:04 p.m.

### **I Privilege of the Floor**

Tim Woods introduced himself, noting he was attending in place of Stan Marcus who was unable to attend this evening.

### **II Changes and Additions to the Agenda**

There were two additions to the agenda, which were added prior to Item III:

- Dr. Cornelia Yoder – Presentation on Global Warming
- Resolution – Recommending the protection of Sapsucker Woods UNA-106

#### **Addition: Presentation on Global Warming**

Dr. Cornelia Yoder gave a presentation on global warming, focusing on its effects and the expected impacts on the Ithaca area.

#### **Addition: Resolution 03-2007 Recommending the Protection of Sapsucker Woods UNA-106**

Mark Whitmore presented the resolution, noting that the Environmental Review Committee had already sent a letter commenting on the proposed development. The resolution is a way for the entire EMC to take a position on the proposal.

**MOTION** by Kenny Christianson, seconded by Glynn Bebee, to adopt Resolution 03-2007, as drafted.

During discussion the following amendments to the minutes were accepted as friendly:

- Last whereas statement, first sentence:  
Whereas, ~~the~~ suburban development has gradually encroached around Sapsucker Woods from all sides since the 1950s.
- First resolved statement, first sentence:  
Therefore, be it resolved, and for all the reasons stated above, all development in or near UNA-106 should be avoided. But, if development in or near UNA-106 continues, buffer zones around the wetlands will be needed as additional protection against lawn, roadway, and driveway chemical runoff.

The resolution, as amended, was **adopted** on a vote of 13 in favor, one opposed (Roger Yonkin), and two abstentions (Herb Engman and Larry Sallinger).

### **III Executive Committee Recommendations for Reduction of Staff Time**

Neha Khanna presented the proposal (attached) she prepared concerning ways to reduce staff time spent in support of the EMC. She noted that this was not a recommendation, as the Executive Committee had not yet met to discuss this. However, the Executive Committee would appreciate any comments members have on this draft. Additional ideas brought up in discussion included: (1) Jacie Spoon volunteered to take minutes, if necessary. (2) Suggestion: Should the EMC coordinator attend any/all of the EMC meeting; maybe attend subcommittee meetings only? (3) Suggestion: Reduce to 8 full EMC meetings per year, subcommittee meetings continue to meet every month or as needed.

#### **IV 2008 Workplan/Budget**

The members of the EMC brainstormed potential activities for 2008. A list of ideas generated is attached to these minutes. Members were asked to provide additional thoughts to Joan Jurkowich prior to next month's meeting.

#### **V Municipal Reports**

##### **A. Town of Dryden**

Tim Woods gave a report in Stan Marcus' absence. There is a joint meeting of the Town Board, Planning Board and Conservation Board to discuss implementing changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinance. Among the items being discussed are establishing riparian buffers, addressing stormwater runoff, and protecting wetlands. Stan Marcus is at that meeting.

##### **B. Town of Ithaca**

Larry Sallinger reported the Town of Ithaca established its Lakefront Residential Zone in 2004. They are considering amending the ordinance to address docks, piers, and similar structures. If anyone is interested, they should contact Larry after the meeting.

##### **C. Town of Ulysses**

Lucia Tyler was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report.

- **The Town of Ulysses Comprehensive Plan committee recently sent out a questionnaire to all town residences in order to aid in updating its original plan which was passed in 1999.**
- The Town of Ulysses Board is evaluating a proposal by a landowner in the north part of the town to be annexed to the village. A SEQR review is underway as part of this process.
- Four members of the Town of Ulysses board signed a letter opposing garbage hauling transit through Tompkins county to the June meeting regarding truck traffic to the Seneca Meadows landfill facility.

#### **VI Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2007**

**MOTION** by Roger Segelken, seconded by Herb Engman, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2007 meeting.

During discussion the following amendments to the resolution were accepted as friendly:

- List of Associates:  
Joyce Gerbasi, ~~Dookey~~ Dooley Kiefer
- Natural Features Focus Areas Update, title:  
Natural Features Focus Areas (NFFA) Update
- Natural Features Focus Areas Update, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence:  
At ten public meetings information was presented and input was requested.
- Wind Farm Exploration, 6<sup>th</sup> sentence:  
A major transmission line goes through the area already, and his ~~windmills~~ wind turbines would connect ...
- Municipal Reports, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence:  
~~Michael Culotta, Chair of the City of Ithaca Conservation Advisory Committee, reported for Glynn Bebee, who was excused.~~

The minutes, as amended, were **adopted** by the unanimous vote of the members present.

**VII Coordinator's Report** -- There was no Coordinator's report.

**VIII County Legislature Liaison Report** -- There was no County Legislature Liaison report.

#### **IX Member Items**

Glynn Bebee reported that he took a trip to Piedmont Biofuels in North Carolina and took nearly the entire trip using vegetable oil as fuel.

Kenny Christianson reported the Energy Committee would probably meet on August 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. Joan Jurkowich noted that Ann Dillemoth, the intern working on updating the Cities for Climate Protection data, would be leaving the last of July.

**X Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Jurkowich, EMC Coordinator

Approved by the Council on 9/12/2007

## Potential Ways to Reduce Planning Department staff time commitment to the EMC

Neha Khanna

(on behalf of the EMC Executive Committee)

*July 11, 2007*

Activity	Approx. time (hours)	Potential reduction (hours/year)	Notes, questions, etc
Attending EMC meetings	5 per meeting	3.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does the EMC coordinator need to be there for the entire meeting? For example, we typically spend the last 15-20 minutes of the meeting in municipality reports and member items. Municipality reports eventually appear in the EMC newsletter and could be submitted in writing, and the member items, while they sometimes the most 'fun' part of a meeting, are not necessarily 'business.'</li> <li>• Assuming 20 minutes per meeting we could save <math>20 * 11 = 220</math> minutes = 3.67 person-hours per year</li> </ul>
Preparing meeting agendas	3 per meeting	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can be done by a designated EMC member</li> <li>• responsibility should probably rotate annually across the membership, except the EMC chair</li> </ul>
Producing EMC newsletter	4 per year	$4 * 11 = 44$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if we were to get the newsletter format in Word, this might not be too hard for an EMC subcommittee (technology subcommittee) to do</li> </ul>
Preparing, filing, posting minutes	3 per meeting		
Scheduling rooms	1 per month	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why can't the rooms be scheduled for the entire year at the beginning of the year?</li> <li>• If sub-committees change their meeting time, then it should be the task of the sub-committee chair to reschedule the room</li> </ul>
Preparing and managing annual budget	4 per year		
Preparing annual report	12 per year		
Recruitment and managing membership	8 per year	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does 'management' mean in this context?</li> <li>• What does this activity entail that is not a part of misc. correspondence and phone?</li> </ul>
Committee organization	8 per year	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this include outside of the time spent during the January EMC meeting?</li> </ul>
Contact list management	4 per year	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This should be fairly easy for us to do. Perhaps our website (technology?) committee could take over this task</li> </ul>
Misc. correspondence, phone, etc.	4 per month		

## Potential Ways to Reduce Planning Department staff time commitment to the EMC

Neha Khanna

(on behalf of the EMC Executive Committee)

*July 11, 2007*

Attending occasional sub-committee meetings	10-40 per year	0-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can this be limited to not more than 11 person hours per year (i.e., one subcommittee meeting per month)?</li> </ul>
Intern recruitment and oversight	0-20 per year		
Supporting EMC projects (eg, bagless shopping)	0-40 per year	0-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we limit this to no more than 2 hours per month?</li> <li>• This time is in addition to attending sub-committee meetings and overseeing the intern.</li> <li>• Maybe the intern could also help out with this activity.</li> <li>• In years where we don't have the intern, the time that would have been spent overseeing the intern should be spent supporting EMC projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>243-333 per year</b>	<b>110.67-145.67</b>	
<b>Totals from past years</b>			
2004	330		
2005	372		
2006	282		

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