



EMC News

April 1, 1999

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Coordinator's Report

Please find enclosed a copy of the 1998 EMC Annual Report. It's always interesting for me to compile and review all of the work done by the EMC over the span of a year. By the time it's put together, I've all but forgotten the past winter's speakers and issues of debate. Doesn't the Conference on the Environment seem like it happened years ago? Congratulations to all of you on a fruitful year.

I've also enclosed an updated version of the EMC Roster for your files. Please send me any corrections, so that our files can be up-to-date.

As requested by the Council at the last meeting, here is the list of when and where the following Town or Village Boards meet, so that EMC members can think about attending a meeting to inform boards about the work of the EMC and offer assistance in finding new municipal members.

Town of Ulysses - 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Ulysses Town Hall

Village of Trumansburg - 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m., Village Hall, 56 E. Main St.

Town of Enfield - 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Enfield Community Building.

Town of Groton - 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, Conger Blvd.

Village of Groton - 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m., Village Hall Conference Room

Cornell's Center for the Environment is sponsoring two lectures by Nobel Laureate and University of California, Irvine professor, F. Sherwood Rowland on April 20 and 21. He will discuss how the depletion of stratospheric ozone by CFCs presents a complex interweaving of scientific investigation and public policy formation conducted in full public view. The public lecture is scheduled on April 21 at 5:00 p.m. at Schwartz Auditorium at Rockefeller Hall.

Dooley Kiefer asked me to share the following information with all EMC members. There is a new resource available for developing goals for existing golf courses and considering issues associated with new golf courses. You can find it at the Physicians for Social Responsibility web page at http://www.psrus.org/golf_environment.htm.

A series of public meetings will be held in April to discuss present and future recreation-related management needs for the state forests in Tompkins County and several surrounding counties. The DEC is looking for public input on this topic, and has developed a questionnaire for forest users. I will bring copies of this questionnaire to the next EMC meeting for interested members to complete. Please call the DEC at 753-3095 for more information about the public meetings.

Submitted by Katie Borgella

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

The UNA committee met March 12 and 23 to discuss the following issues:

1. Looked at some of the UNA boundaries that will be changing significantly and understanding the justification for the changes. In some cases, boundaries will shrink, but in many cases the UNA boundaries are expanding. This is due to improved maps and another decade's worth of knowledge about the location of flora and fauna in the County. We also saw examples of what the new, more detailed and accurate maps of UNAs and their surroundings will look like.

2. Discussed the various federal and state listing systems for designating the relative scarcity of flora and fauna in Tompkins County and developed codes for those systems to be used in the database. Bird lists present particular difficulty, since migratory birds are protected under international treaty and have been assigned different status by different agencies and organizations. The UNA committee is working to reconcile the various bird species designations for simplicity's sake in the final UNA survey report.

3. Suggested outside technical assistance in reviewing the special geologic features that are present in some UNAs.

4. A citizen's group is interested in the purchase of a property on which the UNA Danby Fir Tree Swamp is located for the construction of a community center. The UNA committee will respond to their request for support for their plan. Our support is qualified by wanting to visit the site once more during the growing season to be sure that there is suitable dry ground, away from the UNA, for the building site. The purchase of this parcel for a community center could serve as a good protective measure for the future of the UNA.

The next UNA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the basement meeting room at the Planning Department.

Submitted by Lynn Leopold

County Towers Committee Report

We have been working with a County task group on a Request for Proposals for a technical consultant. The consultant will recommend ways for the County to provide acceptable emergency communications services while minimizing the numbers and heights of new towers. Katie has compiled a list of consultants to receive the RFP. The RFP should be sent out soon.

The County will inform the selected consultant about existing towers and structures that should be considered for colocation possibilities. ("Colocation" means placing new antennas/dishes on an existing structure, which is preferable from an environmental standpoint to building a new tower.) We would like this list to be as complete as possible. We hope EMC members can help by letting us know of towers and other tall structures that currently are in place in their respective municipalities. We are NOT asking for a field survey--just tell us about structures of which you are already aware. We are interested in towers (cellular, radio, TV, water) and other tall structures. Please provide us with the name of the municipality and road where the tower is located, and its current use (if you know). You can e-mail this information to Susan Brock at brock@clarityconnect.com, call her at 277-3995, or bring this information to the upcoming EMC meeting.

Submitted by Susan Brock

Chair's Report

No Report Submitted

Environmental Review Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Executive Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Education Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Env. Directory Update Committee Report

No Report Submitted

NESTS Study Committee Report

No Report Submitted