

AGENDA
EMC MEETING

October 13, 2010 ■ **LOCATION: 395 Pine Tree Road** ■ 7:00 p.m.

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| I. | Privilege of the Floor | 7:00 |
| II. | Changes to the Agenda & Approval of Minutes | 7:05 |
| III. | Transportation Initiative of the Year Award
– <i>Communication Committee</i> | 7:10 |
| IV. | Enfield Energy Update – <i>Marguerite Wells</i> | 7:20 |
| V. | Resolution on Wind Energy – <i>Energy Committee</i> | 7:50 |
| VI. | Updates and Question Period for Committee Reports
Energy
Environmental Review
Executive
UNA Update
Communication | 8:10 |
| VII. | Updates and Question Period for Quarterly Municipal Reports
Village of Dryden – <i>Martha Ferger</i>
Town of Danby – <i>Eric Banford</i>
Town of Lansing – <i>Eric VanEvery</i> | 8:10 |
| VIII. | Appointment of Nominating Committee for December Chair Election
and January Vice Chairs Election – <i>Roger Segelken</i> | 8:15 |
| IX. | Other Reports
County Legislature Liaison
Chair
Staff | 8:20 |
| X. | Member Items | 8:25 |
| XI. | Adjournment | 8:30 |

Reminder to Members:

If you are unable to attend, please contact:
Roger Segelken, Chair (hrs2@cornell.edu) or
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary (274-5560 or kwilsea@tompkins-co.org).

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

Village of Dryden – Martha Ferger

Construction of the expanded Waste Water Treatment Plant on Virgil Creek at the northwest edge of the Village is moving along on schedule. The plant is expected to be in full operation in the Fall of 2011.

The Board of Trustees has approved draft regulations for a new Light Industrial/ Business Park Zoning District prepared by the Village Zoning Board for two properties recently annexed by the Village just beyond its former northern boundary along Rt. 38. A local law covering this matter will be introduced in October, followed by the formal public hearing process.

Complaints have been registered by residents of Lee Road about vandalism, trash and noisy/unruly behavior by TC3 students using the street as the shortest route down the hill to Route 13/38 and the businesses downtown. Entrance to the road from the TC3 campus is blocked by a high gate, but students climb over it rather than walk the much longer route on campus roads to the same destinations. A proposed pedestrian path from campus through unused land to the destinations has been investigated but found to be prohibitively expensive. TC3 and Village officials are continuing to seek solutions to this problem.

Town of Danby – Eric Banford

Danby Town Barn Biomass Boiler: Danby was successful in getting a NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grant for \$263,647 to install a state-of-the-art biomass boiler to heat the Town's Highway Barn. The Town needs to front the money for the project and submit the costs incurred for reimbursement.

The biomass boiler is coming from Europe, where the use of biomass as a fuel is much better developed than it is here in the United States. It will be capable of using hay bales as its primary fuel. The Danby Land Bank Cooperative is expected to be the source of the waste hay and fallow field mowings, thus resulting in a locally produced, renewable, and carbon-neutral fuel source. This boiler could also be fed wood chips or shavings, should those be available and cost-competitive. Any of these fuels are expected to be significantly cheaper than the propane currently used to heat the facility.

Danby Planning Board: Alternative Fuels: Henry Peterson addressed the Danby Planning Board during its August meeting, touting the virtues of alcohol fuel. They are numerous, beginning with a reduced dependence on imported oil and, at the same time, exporting our country's wealth. Unlike extractive fossil fuels, alcohol can be produced indefinitely and it is also carbon neutral, contributing nothing to global warming. Production is easy on the land, provided that its byproducts find their way back onto the land, either directly as fertilizer, or indirectly as the manure of animals fed the byproducts.

Peterson spoke of small-scale distillation, with multiple stills potentially located in the town. Stills capable of producing 3 gallons/batch can be had for less than \$1500, or even manufactured locally by anyone handy with tools. Peterson said he thinks alcohol can be produced for about \$1/gallon. The Federal government subsidizes the production at the rate of 55 cents per gallon, reducing the production cost to 45 cents.

There were skeptics in the audience. Some questioned the EREI (energy return on energy invested); some academics believe that the return is actually negative. Peterson said the figures he has seen are in the range of 35 percent, and agreed that corn is a poor feedstock. Sugar beets or sorghum would be better, and cellulosic feed stocks are also a possibility, but that technology is still being developed.

If it were produced, how would it be used? Before prohibition, engines were designed to run on alcohol or gasoline. Some engines currently being manufactured can run on E85 (up to 85 percent alcohol). Otherwise, there is an upper limit on what unmodified engines can use. Peterson suggested that that upper limit is around 50 percent. Others had it closer to 15 percent. Since gasoline already contains 10 percent alcohol, how much more can be added is important.

Alcohol can also be mixed with diesel fuel. Ric Dietrich reported that the Town of Dryden tried that with its highway fleet and found it worked well in the summer, but winter operation was less satisfactory. The fuel tended to gel at lower temperatures, a problem that could be solved by substituting kerosene, but at an increased cost that pretty much negated the cost advantage of adding the alcohol.

Betsy Keokosky reported on the activities of the Danby Land Bank Cooperative. That group was partnering with a group of investors, led by Tony Nekut, to build a pellet fuel plant in Caroline. They have found the economics of wood pellet fuel do not support the venture, however, because of high costs for maintenance of the equipment. Keokosky said that she believes that grass has a better EREI than wood. The group is now looking into producing grass briquettes or logs that could be burned in conventional wood stoves. Ultimately, combined heat and power operations make the most sense, said Keokosky, with large users like hospitals and universities best positioned to move in that direction.

Town of Lansing – Eric VanEvery
No report submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication – Spring Buck

The communication committee this past month has organized the second annual Transportation Initiatives of the Year (TIY) Award. Our process involved asking all EMC members to submit nominations, reviewing the nominations, and voting on the winner. As a reminder... this award recognizes new or existing programs and/or organizations that have made a difference for the environment and area residents, and serve as a needed, progressive component in Tompkins County's transportation portfolio. This year's winner goes to the Waterfront Trail! A lovely award is being given, and an associated press release will highlight the Waterfront Trail and the EMC.

Energy – Steve Nicholson

The Energy Committee arranged a speaker for the October EMC meeting.

Environmental Review – Jim McGarry

ERC did not receive any development plans to review, so did not meet this month.

Unique Natural Areas Update – Karen Edelstein

This committee will meet Monday, 10/18 at 5:30 PM in the large side of the Old Jail Conference Room.