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Minutes of the EMC

Date: March 10, 2016
Time: 4:00pm
Location: Old Jail Conference Room, 125 E. Court St.

Attendees:

| Name | | Representation | Name | | Representation |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Steve Bissen | P | Town of Dryden | Susan Riley | P | At-Large |
| Kenny Christianson | P | At-Large | Tom Shelley | P | Ithaca CAC |
| John Dennis | A | Village of Lansing | Linda Spielman | P | Village of Dryden |
| Brian Eden | P | Village of Cayuga Heights | Ron Szymanski | A | Village of Freeville |
| Bill Evans | A | Town of Danby | Roger Yonkin | A | At-Large |
| Pegi Ficken | E | Town of Groton | <i>Anna Kelles</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>Legislature Liaison</i> |
| John Hertzler | A | Town of Ulysses | <i>Dooley Kiefer</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Jim McGarry | A | At-Large | <i>Jose Lozano</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Vladimir Micic | A | Town of Ithaca | <i>Scott Doyle</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>EMC Coordinator</i> |
| Steve Nicholson | E | Town of Caroline | <i>Jennifer Turner</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>Administrative Assistant</i> |

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12 **Guests in attendance:** Nick Gould

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14 **Call to Order**– The meeting was called to order by Brian Eden at 4:05pm.

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16 **Approval of Minutes** – March meeting minutes will be reviewed at the meeting on April 14. As
17 approved, final minutes are posted on the EMC webpage: www.tompkins-co.org/emc.

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19 **Energy** – Brian Eden reported on the proposed carbon tax and energy bill and expressed his
20 concerns with the “diminishing energy supply”. He noted the growing interest in local area
21 development, noting the Maplewood redevelopment project, as having opportunities for
22 employing new energy-saving aspects. He also noted attempts being made to set up meetings
23 with both the Economic Policy Advisor and NYSERDA regarding heat pumps and hydro that
24 were left out of the federal spending bill. He went on to note about the community solar forum
25 he plans to attend on Friday March 11th in Syracuse, the energy symposium on April 8th, and
26 presentation on the Residential Energy Score project on March 14 at the Tompkins County
27 Public Library at 7:30 PM. It was further noted that the Planning Committee of the Legislature is
28 soon considering a resolution in support of a micro-hydro renewables contract. Finally, it was
29 reported that The Energy Roadmap is complete and will be presented to the Planning,
30 Development, and Environmental Quality Committee on March 16.

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32 **City of Ithaca Stormwater Management Planning** – Jesse Hill introduced himself as the Chair
33 of the City of Ithaca’s Conservation Advisory Council. He went on to report on the Council’s
34 efforts in city code and stormwater issues, noting their primary focus on commenting on local
35 projects under consideration by both the City Planning Board and Common Council. Through
36 this review process, a commonality noted was that only minimum code requirements were being
37 met, causing concerns with the planning process and poor design standards that will likely result
38 in environmental and economic impacts.

1 Raised awareness through the new Stormwater Utility legislation was noted as playing a large
2 part in increasing coordination between agencies, though additional objectives were emphasized
3 in order to reduce potential impacts. The CAC has drafted a report recommending the
4 modification of a number of ways the City regulates stormwater and incentivizes the use of
5 stormwater BMPs. Reported objectives include, though are not limited to, streamlining and
6 emphasizing the city code, making specific code changes, clarification of the definition of
7 Natural Areas, and to calibrate any code changes to work with the existing stormwater
8 management operations.

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10 Members questioned whether smaller properties typically also have issues incorporating
11 stormwater recommendations. Additional areas of discussion included stormwater credits and
12 their benefits to commercial properties particularly in comparison to the cost of traditional
13 stormwater systems.

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15 To view the complete draft report please visit:

16 <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/emc/documents/presentations>

17 18 **Committee Reports**

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20 **Energy** – Brian Eden reported that the 2030 District will be on the Planning, Development, and
21 Environmental Quality Committee agenda on March 16. The Black Oak Wind Farm was
22 discussed, and members expressed concerns of constraints with setbacks, and it was noted that
23 after substantial review, the supplemental EIS was submitted and accepted as approved.

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25 **Environmental Review** – Brian Eden reported on the Chainworks site, and expressed his
26 concerns with potential development going in around areas of contamination. Then, the proposed
27 Maguire development and Brindley Street Bridge project were discussed. Also, it was noted that
28 the solid waste regulations for the Cayuga Power Plant were released for review and are
29 currently open for comment. The recent lead found in area drinking water, and discrepancies
30 with the numerous agencies’ varying standards were additional concerns discussed by the
31 Council. The DEC will tour the Cayuga Power Plant on March 15.

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33 **Unique Natural Areas** – Linda Spielman reported that the UNA committee did not meet this
34 month, and have not yet taken an observational walk through Sapsucker Woods.

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36 **Executive Committee** – Brian Eden announced the Earth Day celebration taking place at The
37 Space. Susan Riley announced an upcoming presentation on Cornell University’s Climate Action
38 Plan and sustainability goals that will likely take place this spring. Steve Penningroth will be
39 presenting at the meeting on April 14. Members mentioned an interest in information on the
40 topic of lead in area drinking water. The committee annual reports are due April 1. Suggestions
41 were further made to update the purpose statement in the EMC Bylaws.

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43 **Staff Report** – Scott Doyle reported on the two major environmental reviews with both
44 Chainworks project, and Black Oak Wind Farm project. He went on to report on the energy farm
45 meeting he attended that focused on funding opportunities for various energy projects. Jennifer

1 Turner announced her resignation from the Planning Department and full-time employment with
2 Personnel.

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4 **Wind Power FAQ: Discussion and Approval** – Brian Eden presented his efforts in creating a
5 wind industry fact sheet, and asked members to submit comments prior to the meeting on April
6 10. Dooley suggested “The EMC supports the EMC -2016, and seeks to encourage public
7 dialogue”.

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9 **Municipal Reports** – Marie Terlizzi expressed concern with the agricultural properties at Pony
10 Hollow that are being used to spread manure.

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12 **Member Items** – Thomas Shelley reported on the joint meeting between the City Planning
13 Board and the Ithaca Landmark Commission on the Old Library (Dewitt House) regarding the
14 improvements on the design of building. He reported further on the draft EIS approval of the
15 Chainworks project, and the design review elements that were presented.

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17 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

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19 Respectfully submitted,

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21 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
22 Tompkins County Planning Department
23 Approved by Council on April 14th, 2016