

TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 4:00-6:00PM
Final Minutes
Meeting Facilitator: Sarah Schnabel

Attendance

Member	Member	Staff
Andrea Aguirre	E Evan Hallas	P Terry Carroll P
Sara Culotta	E Tony Ingraffea (associate)*	E Hailley Delisle P
Veronica Pillar*	P Guillermo Metz	P Kristin McCarthy P
Brian Eden	P Alex Rakow (associate)*	P
Danielle Eiseman	E Sarah Schnabel	P
Rebecca Evans	P Irene Weiser	P

*Non-voting member

Guests: Peter Bardaglio

1. Call to Order/Agenda Review – Moderator Sarah Schnabel called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. Group talked about having a social in-person get-together in August in lieu of an official meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes – The draft June 2023 minutes were approved (motion by Evan Hallas, second by Brian Eden) as submitted. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment – Information was shared regarding Ithaca 2030 District annual report, a resolution coming before the County Legislature to oppose the increased permitted height and extended life of the Seneca Lake Meadows Landfill, and upcoming public outreach meeting on update to County Solid Waste Management Plan.

4. Member Updates – Members reported on NYSEG rate case; draft NYS Solid Waste Management Plan; the Cayuga Lake Summit, to be hosted by Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now at Stewart Park on July 18; and Town of Ithaca Planning Board meeting also scheduled for July 18.

5. Action: Approve Letter Urging Gov. Hochul to sign A 5718b/5.5959b (aka “Carshare Bill”)
 Irene provided an overview of the proposed law, which would allow Ithaca Carshare and other nonprofit carshares in New York State to continue operating. The bill, which was sponsored by Assemblyperson Anna Kelles and Senator Lea Webb, would allow risk retention groups to provide insurance for nonprofit carshares even if the insurers are domiciled out of state. Brian Eden shared details on lobbying efforts that have taken place surrounding this issue.

Action: Brian Eden made a motion, seconded by Evan Hallas, to approve the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board sending a letter urging Gov. Hochul to sign A.5718b/5.5959b to allow nonprofits to obtain auto insurance from nonprofit risk retention groups. Motion carried. Guillermo Metz abstained.

6. Staff Report (as needed)

Staff updated group on County Legislature advisory board policy changes, Caswell solar array, Climate Smart Communities recertification, and County green facilities and fleet initiatives. Terry shared he will be going to the Facilities & Infrastructure legislative committee later this month with a resolution to authorize signing an agreement with Enterprise to provide fleet management and leased vehicle services to part of the County fleet.

7. Report/Discussion: Recap of June discussion on board mandate and possible next steps

The group revisited the June discussion on the board's mandate and possible next steps. It was agreed that a shared Google document would be a good mechanism for tracking progress on this issue.

8. Presentation/Discussion: Residential Electric Services and Electrification – Sarah Schnabel

Sarah Schnabel gave a presentation on residential electric services and electrification. She discussed the current NYS energy code, which makes it easy to go over load, and the new code for 2023, which allows for load management devices to reduce peak demand on the grid. Multiple topics were covered in her presentation and the subsequent Q&A. These included energy services, managing peak demand on the grid, calculating electric loads, energy consumption versus energy capacity, feedback from code enforcement officers, need to educate local officials, staff, and the general public, and more. The group discussed the potential actions that the County Legislature could take to help implement the solutions. These included passing a resolution encouraging code change, educating local officials on their authority regarding code enforcement, and drafting a sample local law for municipalities to adopt code change.

9. Meeting Wrap-up

Terry, Hailley, and Kristin will follow up regarding holding a Case Board social hour in August in lieu of an official meeting.

10. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.