

TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board
Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, 4:00-6:30PM
TC Public Library, BorgWarner Room West/Tour of Ithaca Downtown Conference Center
Final Minutes
Meeting Facilitator: Jaden Beck

Attendance

Member	Member	Staff
Andrea Aguirre	E Danielle Eiseman	P Terry Carroll P
Jaden Beck	P Rebecca Evans	P Hailley Delisle P
Louise Bruce	P Guillermo Metz	P Kristin McCarthy P
Sara Culotta	P Martha Robertson	P
Veronica Pillar*	P Sarah Schnabel	P
Brian Eden	P Irene Weiser	P

*Non-voting member

Guests: Tom Hirasuna, Siobhan Hull

1. Call to Order/Agenda Review – Following tour of Ithaca Downtown Conference Center, facilitator Jaden Beck called the meeting to order at 5:20pm. No changes to the agenda. Members welcomed guests from Tompkins County Environmental Management Council and engaged in a quick round of introductions. Update was given by staff on member reappointments by the County Legislature. Jaden shared that she is leaving the board but plans to attend meetings when she can as a guest.

2. Approval of Minutes – The October 2024 meeting minutes were approved (motion by Rebecca Evans, second by Martha Robertson) with minor edits.

3. Public Comment –None

4. Member Updates – Members shared updates on various topics. Locally, the City of Ithaca plans to decommission a diesel generator at Cass Park and may retrofit park lights. Meanwhile, the Clean Energy Communities program has halted new participant enrollment and action submissions due to funding constraints. In downstate news, New York City's congestion pricing program, reinstated with a reduced fee, faces opposition from some lawmakers. Additionally, the recent election has impacted climate action. On the state level, members highlighted ongoing efforts, including support for the New York State Climate Change Superfund Act.

5. Chair's Report – Sara reflected gratefully on the relationships built during her five-year tenure as chair. She outlined her remaining duties, including submitting the board's 2024 annual report to the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality (PEEQ) committee, and stressed the need for a new chair, offering her support for the transition. Group thanked Sara for her dedicated leadership and her success in strengthening the board's relationships with the County Legislature and public.

5. Update: Bylaws Working Group – Martha and Sarah S. will try to work on drafting bylaws to fit the County's new template between now and next board meeting. While there is no longer an end of year

deadline for finishing the new bylaws, the goal is to finish them as soon as possible in 2025. Additional volunteers are welcome to join them. Conversation then segued to County Legislature meetings schedule and committee assignments, both of which won't be finalized until sometime in late January or February. For now, the Case Board meetings will continue to be scheduled for

6. Update: Memberahip & Nominating Committees – Members decided to postpone decisions about nominating chair and vice chair until January. In the coming weeks, anyone interested in serving as an officer can reach out to staff. Likewise, members discussed possible recruitment strategies for filling the two soon-to-be vacant seats on the board.

7. Informal Discussion & Socializing – Group enjoyed catching up informally and continuing to discuss topics of interest. Guests Siobhan and Tom from the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council shared information on that board's recent activities. Additionally, members talked about various other topics, including the Climate Super Fund, nuclear power initiatives, airport funding and debt, crypto currency mining, and more.

8. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.