

EMC Final Minutes
Feb. 8, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Brad Will	P	At-Large
Christine Collins	P	Town of Ulysses	Ingrid Zabel	E	Town of Ithaca
Cait Darfler	P	Village of Trumansburg	<i>Anne Koreman</i>	P	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Brandon Hoak	P	At-Large	<i>Lindsay Dombroskie</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
Steve Nicholson	A	Town of Caroline	<i>Karen Edelstein</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
Peter Penniman	P	Town of Enfield	<i>Thomas Hirasuna</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
Susan Riley	E	At-Large	<i>David Weinstein</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
Lisa Strayer	A	At-Large	<i>Robert Wesley</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
Ron Szymanski	P	Village of Freeville	Darby Kiley	E	Tompkins Co. staff
Elaine Tietjen	P	At-Large	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Jeff Walker	E	Village of Cayuga Heights			

5 **Guests:** Dan Antonioli, Nick Goldsmith, Anne Koreman, Jeff Simmons, Jack Zinda

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:06pm. The group spent a few
7 moments sharing memories of Pegi Ficken, Town of Groton representative, who recently passed away.

8 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – No changes to agenda. No public comment.

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10 **Approval of Minutes** – The January 2024 draft minutes were approved (motion by Ron Szymanski,
11 second by Christine Collins) as submitted.

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13 **Group Check-in: Icebreaker Activity**

14 Cait briefly updated group on efforts to fill vacant seats. Discussion revolved around potential
15 candidates and exploring opportunities with the City of Ithaca's Sustainability and Climate Justice
16 Commission. Attendees then separated into breakout rooms for icebreaker activity.

17 **Presentation/Discussion: Sunrise Ithaca – Past Projects & Current Work** – *Siobhan Hull*

18 Siobhan Hull from Sunrise Ithaca gave an overview of the organization's origins, alignment with the
19 national Sunrise Movement, and goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 with a focus on equity. She
20 highlighted engagement with statewide coalitions like New York Renews, local-level advocacy, and
21 community education. The concept of Justice 50, integrating equity into the Green New Deal, was
22 presented, with details on components and efforts for adoption at the city level. Attendees discussed
23 strategies for increasing community engagement, including newsletters, meetings, and canvassing. Tom
24 Hirasuna offered support through the Green Scene newsletter. There was interest in expanding
25 initiatives beyond city limits to the county level, focusing on diverse communities and framing Justice
26 50's benefits tangibly. Collaboration opportunities, including youth involvement and outreach to other
27 municipalities, were explored. Discussion also touched on imminent issues like the draft FEMA flood
28 maps impacting vulnerable populations.

29 **Executive Committee Report** – Cait reported on upcoming guest presentations, including one from the
30 Water Resources Institute at Cornell and another by the Town of Lansing on their Open Space Inventory.
31 The May meeting will be held in-person at Stewart Park, with invitations extended to the various
32 municipal conservation advisory councils and boards.

33 Regarding EMC organizational matters, the need for better onboarding procedures and more accessible
34 information on the website was highlighted. Committee chairs were asked to email their annual reports
35 to Cait at their earliest convenience, and municipal members were encouraged to sign up for monthly
36 updates.

37 Continuing the discussion from the previous meeting, Cait outlined tasks for 2024. These included
38 updating the EMC bylaws, developing a five-year strategic plan, revising Unique Natural Area
39 boundaries, continuing work on the Green Scene e-newsletter, and creating and designing educational
40 outreach materials for the community.

41 **Legislative Update** – Annie Koreman reported that the County's Green Building Policy was updated,
42 along with changes to the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality (PEEQ) legislative committee's
43 membership and meeting time.

44 **Municipal Reports** *(as needed)* – None

45 **Committee Updates** *(as needed)* – None

46 **Staff Report** *(as needed)* – None

47 **Member Announcements** – Group discussed Earth Day activities, accessing documents via the EMC
48 Google Drive, Cornell Earth Source Heat project, distributing PEEQ meeting information via the Green
49 Scene, 2023 NYS Association of Conservation Commissions conference materials, a DEC meeting
50 regarding Cargill salt mine, and the Adopt a Highway program.

51 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:35pm.