



EMC News

February 2, 2000

Volume 7, No. 2

Chair's Report

It's great to see such high levels of energy and enthusiasm, especially from our new members and associate members. The committees have plunged into their work and the next few months promise to be busy ones.



One of the EMC's resolutions from last year has drawn attention from a local group. Last June, the EMC sent a resolution to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in response to DEC's request for comments on its Recreation Master Plan for Forests and Unique Areas. The EMC recommended that "the integrity of the environment of New York State lands be the prime determinant of which activities shall be permitted." The resolution further stated that activities which damage the land should not be permitted, and trails designed for hiking should not be used by other recreational users. The EMC also recommended that communities with state forest lands within their boundaries have direct input into the planning and management of these lands. The Board of Representatives passed a similar resolution.

A group of horseback riders in Hammond Hill State Forest recently expressed concern about the EMC's resolution to the Dryden Town Board. Apparently, they believe that if DEC follows our recommendations, DEC would no longer permit horseback riding anywhere in state forests. Our resolution does not recommend such a wholesale ban, and I am not sure why this issue is surfacing now. In any event, the horseback riding group has now contacted me, and Herb Engman (who worked extensively on this issue) will be talking with its members. We welcome the opportunity for constructive dialogue and hope to dispel the false "us v. them" dynamic that currently appears to exist.

Submitted by Chair Susan Brock

Coordinator's Report

During the next month, I will be gathering information to begin organizing the 1999 EMC Annual Report to the Board of Representatives. The purpose of the report is to summarize our activities and accomplishments during the past year. It provides a snapshot of the critical issues and projects we have worked on. As part of this effort, I will be asking members who chaired or served on a committee during the past year, to help me identify items to highlight. I welcome all ideas!

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Environmental Review Committee Report

At its January 25th meeting, the Environmental Review Committee selected Barbara Ebert as Committee Chair and Herb Engman as Vice-Chair for the Year 2000. As part of Old Business, copies were distributed of the Cornell University response to the EMC's and PIRE committee's questions about the Radiation Disposal Site feasibility study; discussion was postponed until the February meeting. Also distributed were copies of the NYSDEC and EPA response to the EMC's most recent letter about Lake Source Cooling; this matter will be covered at the committee's February meeting.

Under New Business, the committee discussed the dGEIS on the City of Ithaca's Southwest Area; comments are due by February 17th. Committee members who had had an opportunity to review the three-volume set expressed their opinions. After other committee members have had a chance to review the dGEIS, the chair of the committee will collect the comments and draft a written response and the committee will continue its discussion via e-mail, if possible.

A short EAS was received concerning a solid waste recycling facility to be built to accommodate reusable building fragments which will be transferred to Historic Ithaca's part warehouse; the committee determined that, as no map was provided, there was not enough information to determine if the EAS was adequate.

After brief discussions of the draft scope of the proposed Varna housing project and the City's proposed disposal site in the Town of Ithaca, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Barbara Ebert

County Towers Committee Report

The presentation by County representatives on the emergency communication system upgrade has been rescheduled to the EMC's March 8 meeting.

Submitted by Susan Brock

EMC Meeting Dates for 2000

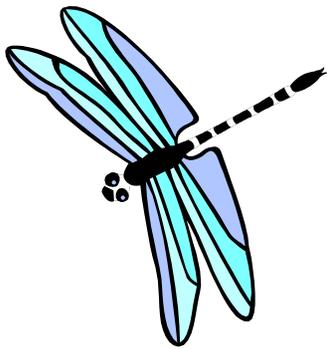
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14
July 12
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Executive Committee Report
No Report Submitted

Education Committee Report
No Report Submitted

Unique Natural Areas Committee
No Report Submitted

NESTS Committee Report
No Report Submitted



Upcoming Municipal Reports

February 9

T. Danby, T. Dryden, T. Lansing

March 8

T. Caroline, T. Groton, T. Ithaca, V. Lansing

April 12

T. Newfield, T. Ulysses, V. Cayuga Heights,

May 10

V. Dryden, V. Freeville, V. Groton, C. Ithaca