

EMC Final Minutes
June 13, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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Attendance

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

5 **Guests:** Siobhan Hull, Annie Koreman, Peter McDonald

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

7 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – No agenda changes or public comments.

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9 **Group Check-in:Icebreaker Activity** – Members broke into small groups and shared their favorite
10 pranks.

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12 **Approval of Minutes** – The April 2024 draft minutes were approved (motion by Christine Collins, second
13 by Steve Bissen) as submitted.

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15 **Presentation/Discussion: EMC Bylaws Revisions** – *Cait Darfler*

16 Cait led the group in a discussion on revising the bylaws. They reviewed the document's content to
17 ensure it aligned with current goals, including incorporating sustainability and promoting biodiversity.
18 Subjects covered included membership structure, officer roles, committees, and the formal procedures
19 for amending the bylaws itself. A major topic was adapting quorum requirements due to County
20 template updates, potentially reducing municipal and village seats while adding student representation.
21 To help new members integrate, the group proposed a "buddy system." They also discussed
22 standardizing seat terms and eliminating village representation. The group will review the document in
23 July with a potential vote in the same meeting for implementation in January. Cait clarified procedures
24 for reviewing documents and member involvement in signing petitions and letters of support.

25 **Executive Committee Report** – Cait reported that the May meeting at Stewart Park had a good turnout,
26 with presentations from municipal groups and time to socialize. The executive committee signed two
27 letters of support, one related to the Cargill salt mine and another for the South Hill Rec Trail expansion.

28 Additionally, Cait reported that the EMC website is being updated. Steve Nicholson then shared
29 information about the annual NYSACC conference, taking place September 18-20 in Booneville, New
30 York, which will feature virtual talks, field trips, and a reception, with reasonable attendance costs and
31 affordable accommodations available.

32 **Town of Ulysses Update --** Chris Collins

33 Chris provided an overview of the town, covering its history, natural resources, conservation efforts,
34 community initiatives, and planning activities. She discussed the town's indigenous roots and military
35 tract history, and highlighted its natural assets, including Taughannock Falls State Park and the Black
36 Diamond Trail. The Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Council leads clean energy and smart
37 growth initiatives and participates in the comprehensive plan update. The town has also been
38 designated a Bee-Friendly Community, has an active Tree Advisory Committee, and has hosted Earth
39 Day and Arbor Day events. Chris touched on planning activities, including zoning maps, and noted the
40 town has achieved certifications and grants, including a \$60,000 clean energy grant.

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

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

43 **Staff Report (as needed)** – The department is applying for a \$75,000 grant from NYSDEC for a stream
44 corridor analysis and flood risk assessment for Six Mile Creek. Additionally, Shawna Stevenson has joined
45 the staff as the new Housing and Community Development Planner.

46 **Member Announcements** – Members discussed the problem of abandoned oil and natural gas wells and
47 possible action the EMC could take on this issue.

48 **Meeting Wrap-up** – Members were encouraged to review the draft bylaws and send feedback to Cait.

49 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:36pm.