

**EMC Final Minutes**  
**May 11, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Stewart Park**

1  
2  
3  
4

**Attendance**

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
George Adams	E	Town of Danby	Regi Teasley	P	At-Large
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Jeff Walker	A	Village of Cayuga Heights
Christine Collins	P	Town of Ulysses	Brad Will	A	At-Large
Tom Corey	P	Village of Dryden	David Wolfe	P	Town of Lansing
Cait Darfler	P	Village of Trumansburg	Ingrid Zabel	P	Town of Ithaca
Marc Devokaitis	E	At-Large	Anne Koreman	P	Legislative Liaison
Pegi Ficken	E	Town of Groton	Lindsay Dombroskie	A	Associate Member
Melanie Greaver Cordova	P	At-Large	Karen Edelstein	P	Associate Member
Brandon Hoak	A	At-Large	Jason Fenn	A	Associate Member
Rick Neville	A	Village of Groton	Joey Gates	E	Associate
Steve Nicholson	P	Town of Caroline	Thomas Hirasuna	P	Associate Member
Stephanie Redmond	A	Town of Enfield	David Weinstein	A	Associate Member
Susan Riley	P	At-Large	Robert Wesley	A	Associate Member
Larry Sallinger	P	At-Large	Darby Kiley	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Lisa Strayer	P	At-Large	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Ron Szymanski	E	Village of Freeville			

5 **Guests:** Lori Brewer, Ed Dubovi, Carrie Koplinka-Loehr, Roxanne Marino, Peter Penniman, Mitch  
6 Raymond

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

8 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – Cait welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. There was no  
9 public comment.

10

11 **Approval of Minutes** – The draft April 2023 minutes were approved as submitted.

12

13 **EMC & Municipal Conservation Board/Advisory Council Members Group Report/Discussion**

14 Cait gave an overview of the EMC’s committees and typical monthly meeting structure. Next the chairs  
15 of the EMC’s current committees shared basic information about the committees and highlights from  
16 their work in 2023. For the Education & Outreach Committee, the latter included publishing the  
17 Tompkins Green Scene e-newsletter, tabling on Earth Day at the Ithaca Farmers Market, assisting with  
18 planning for the NYS Association of Conservation Commissions annual conference in the fall. The Unique  
19 Natural Areas (UNA) Committee report touched on the history of UNA inventory, a valuable resource  
20 that provides no legal protections but has been used to help inform or guide zoning decisions.  
21 Discussion covered updates, digital accessibility, and distribution to municipalities. The Climate  
22 Adaptation Committee has been focusing on excessive heat and flooding mitigation education and  
23 brainstorming ways to make it accessible to the public through hands-on outreach and other methods.  
24 Members of the various municipal conservation boards and advisory councils spoke next, reporting on

25 environmental news and activities from their towns and villages. The Town of Ulysses report touched on  
26 revising the comprehensive plan, a drinking water protection plan, creating a bee-friendly community,  
27 their tree advisory council, and Earth Day activities. Town of Ithaca shared news about environmental  
28 reviews, Invasive Species Week, pollinator initiatives, the town's scenic views map, and a recent event at  
29 Tutelo Park. Town of Newfield reported on their successful Earth Day clean-up initiative. Town of  
30 Lansing talked about their committee's formation, development and zoning issues, creating natural  
31 resources and scenic resources inventories, public outreach involving the open space index, and sense of  
32 accomplishment and meaning derived from helping to conserve Bell Station. Peter Penniman  
33 introduced himself as the incoming Town of Enfield representative on the EMC, sharing that the town  
34 has focused a lot recently on water resources. Town of Dryden has focused on the comprehensive plan  
35 update, Dryden Rail Trail, stormwater management, and more. Cait gave an overview of preparations  
36 for the NYSACC conference, which will take place Sept. 20, 21, and 22, and will include virtual  
37 presentations and technical talks along with in-person field trips, informal social gatherings, as well as a  
38 formal reception with a keynote speaker and awards ceremony. EMC and conservation board and  
39 advisory council members are needed to join in preparing for the conference, especially in terms of  
40 soliciting fiscal sponsorships, developing youth programming, and providing introductions to perspective  
41 speakers. The group discussed several topics, including accessibility, meeting locations,  
42 accommodations, ideas for project awards and more, and then spent the remainder of time socializing  
43 and talking one-on-one or in small groups.

44 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.