

EMC Final Minutes
July 11, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Dan Antonioli	P	Village of Dryden	Jeff Walker	A	Village of Cayuga Heights
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Brad Will	A	At-Large
Louise Bruce	P	At-Large	Ingrid Zabel	P	Town of Ithaca
Christine Collins	P	Town of Ulysses	Jack Zinda	P	At-Large
Cait Darfler	P	Village of Trumansburg	<i>Anne Koreman</i>	E	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Brandon Hoak	A	At-Large	<i>Lindsay Dombroskie</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
Peter McDonald	P	Town of Danby	<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

5 **Guests:** None

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

7 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – No changes to the agenda. No privilege of the floor.

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9 **Group Check-in: Icebreaker Activity** – Members shared their favorite summer activities.

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11 **Approval of Minutes** – The June 2024 draft minutes were approved (motion by Peter McDonald, second
 12 by Jack Zinda) as submitted. Motion carried.

13 **Action/Presentation/Discussion: EMC Bylaws Revisions** – *Cait Darfler*

14 Discussion focused on revising the bylaws, emphasizing accessibility, clarity, and addressing specific
 15 comments. Participants deliberated on environmental justice concerns, proposed membership changes,
 16 and the appointment process for municipal representatives. They also examined the role of temporary
 17 committees and agreed to refine the language regarding committees and task forces. Additionally, they
 18 debated the use of Robert's Rules of Order and the role of a parliamentarian. The discussion further
 19 touched on County approval requirements and the potential elimination of village seats.

20 **Action:** Peter Penniman moved, with a second by Elaine Tietjen, to table approval of the revised EMC
 21 bylaws until the next EMC meeting. Motion carried.

22 **Executive Committee Report** – No report.

23 **Municipal Reports** (*as needed*)

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25 **Town of Caroline** – Steve N. reported that the town has approved the easement for the 7.8-mile

26 extension of the South Hill Recreation Way trail, with approximately five miles in Caroline, and that
27 Dryden Fiber has won an \$8.9 million grant to expand broadband into Caroline.

28 **Town of Dryden** – Steve B. shared that the Dryden community was saddened by the loss of Bob Beck.
29 He emphasized Beck's significant contributions to the town, including his role in establishing the Dryden
30 Rail Trail. Steve N. added that Beck was a long-time member of the EMC.

31 **Town of Ulysses** – Chris reported that the town is working with Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now
32 on a potential resolution related to salt brine storage under town properties.

33 Dan inquired about the distinction between municipal reports and member announcements. Cait
34 explained that member announcements are intended for sharing individual projects, while municipal
35 reports focus on initiatives directly affiliated with the municipality.

36 **Committee and Task Updates (as needed)**

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38 **Unique Natural Areas** – Steve N. reported that a public meeting is planned for the fall to highlight the
39 final property boundary changes. The County Planning & Sustainability Department will send postcards
40 to affected landowners informing them of the changes and providing a map, which will likely be
41 password-protected. Steve also mentioned plans for a field trip to the Sims Jennings preserve (Finger
42 Lakes Land Trust) and the Cayuga Cliffs Unique Natural Area.

43 **Environmental Organizations Online Directory** – Elaine presented an overview of this project, outlining
44 its goals of creating an online directory resource to serve the community, enhance EMC member
45 onboarding and networking, and developing criteria for including organizations in the directory. She also
46 discussed the need to design the directory's interface and visual aesthetic. Together with other EMC
47 members, Elaine is working to seek technical expertise to develop the directory's interface and a graphic
48 designer or artist to assist with its design. The group will continue discussing project details and
49 gathering community feedback, facilitated by the creation of a shared Google doc.

50 **Staff Report (as needed)** – Kristin shared that the County's draft mobility vision plan is available for
51 public comment and the Tourism Program is accepting applications for its fall grant cycle.

52 **Member Announcements** – Group shared updates on the Cayuga Lake Summit at Stewart Park, the
53 NYSACC annual conference, and other topics. Cait announced that the September EMC meeting would
54 feature a speaker from Cornell on PFAs. Louise reported on the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory
55 Board's strategic planning and focus areas.

56 **Meeting Wrap-up** – Cait reminded the group that there would be no meeting in August. She encouraged
57 members to email her with any questions or suggested changes to the draft bylaws before the next
58 meeting on September 12.

59 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:37pm.