

EMC Final Minutes
Nov. 9, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
George Adams	A	Town of Danby	Regi Teasley	E	At-Large
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Jeff Walker	P	Village of Cayuga Heights
Christine Collins	P	Town of Ulysses	Brad Will	P	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	<i>Anne Koreman</i>	P	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Pegi Ficken	E	Town of Groton	<i>Lindsay Dombroskie</i>	E	<i>Associate Member</i>
Brandon Hoak	P	At-Large	<i>Karen Edelstein</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
Rick Neville	A	Village of Groton	<i>Jason Fenn</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>
Larry Sallinger	P	At-Large	Darby Kiley	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Lisa Strayer	E	At-Large	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Ron Szymanski	P	Village of Freeville			

5 **Guests:** None

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

7 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – No guests were present. Cait added “establish Nominating
8 Committee” to the Executive Committee report.

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10 **Approval of Minutes** – The July 2023 and October 2023 draft minutes were approved (motion by Larry
11 Sallinger, second by Christine Collins) as submitted.

12 **Presentation: TC Food System Plan: A Roadmap for Our Future – Don Barber**

13 Guest speaker Don Barber, a retired farmer and chair of the Tompkins County Food Policy Council,
14 presented on the Tompkins County Food System Plan. The plan, developed over two years with input
15 from over 2,000 residents, revealed several key findings: 90% of food consumed locally is non-local; food
16 insecurity is a major concern, with 62% of eligible residents not enrolled in SNAP; average food pantry
17 volunteer is 74 years old; food waste remains a significant issue, with 35% of purchased food uneaten;
18 and climate change is an ongoing threat to the local food system. In response, the plan outlines three
19 directions for the future: building resilience into the food system, cultivating equity and economic
20 opportunity; and promoting human and ecosystem health. Nine specific goals guide the plan, which also
21 includes a pledge for individuals and organizations to demonstrate their support. Don answered
22 questions about individual actions, increased food pantry usage, youth involvement and future of
23 farming in Tompkins County, deer harvesting, living wage for restaurant workers, and challenges with
24 SNAP enrollment. Group also discussed potential locally grown food crops to replace imports. His

25 presentation concluded with encouragement for the EMC to adopt a resolution endorsing the plan and
26 for members to sign the pledge of support.

27 **Executive Committee Report** – Report and discussion covered several topics. Chief among them was the
28 EMC’s letter of support to Governor Hochul regarding the Water Resources Council’s letter regarding
29 Cargill salt mine situation. Ingrid inquired about the possibility of municipalities passing their own
30 resolutions on this issue. The committee discussed the potential benefits and logistics of such an action.
31 Ingrid and Jeff agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee with Steve N. Susan Riley initiated a
32 discussion about potentially restructuring committees. The group agreed to take the topic up again in
33 January. Group also discussed adjusting EMC meeting time in the new year. Brad suggested that EMC
34 members contribute content to the Green Scene newsletter to alleviate the burden on Mark. He also
35 raised concerns about the timing conflict between the mobile home working group meeting and the
36 EMC meeting. Cait confirmed that the EMC meeting time can be adjusted if necessary.

37 **Committee Updates** – Climate Adaptation Committee reported on public presentations and plans for
38 future outreach activities, including locating venues. Cait suggested creating a short blurb to promote
39 presentations for distribution to potential hosts. UNA committee is working on finalizing property
40 boundary changes, sending postcards to landowners, and more. Group discussed members contributing
41 content to Green Scene newsletter and ways EMC could help next year with FEMA flood map outreach.

42 **Municipal Reports (as needed)** – Steve N. reported on Town of Caroline elections and pending vote on
43 zoning changes. Peter shared that Enfield Town Board approved the Water Resources Committee’s final
44 report on water resources planning. Enfield has undertaken some water quality testing, mainly around
45 agricultural runoff. Several municipal representatives gave updates on local deer management
46 programs. Village of Dryden is a finalist for a New York Forward grant. Funds would go to economic
47 development projects.

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49 **Staff Report (as needed)** – 2024 County budget passed and included funding for UNA outreach.
50 Members up for renewal need to submit their paperwork asap if they haven’t done so already.

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52 **Member Announcements** – Group shared good wishes for a happy Thanksgiving.

53 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm.