

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

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Attendance

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

5 **Guests:** Dan Antonioli, Ed Dubovi, Peter McDonald, John Steinmetz, Jack Zinda

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

7 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** –Peter McDonald introduced himself. The agenda was revised to
 8 include a quick report from Anne Koreman, who shared an item related to the possible addition of a
 9 parcel in the Town of Ulysses to the agricultural district.

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 11 **Group Check-in:** – Members participated in an icebreaker activity, sharing their preferred superpowers.

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 13 **Approval of Minutes** – The March 2024 draft minutes were approved (motion by Peter Penniman,
 14 second by Christine Collins) as submitted.

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 16 **Presentation/Discussion: Town of Lansing Open Space Conservation Plan: A Best Management Case**
 17 **Study** – *John Steinmetz, Colliers Engineering and Design*

18 Consultant John Steinmetz presented the near-final Open Space Conservation Plan for the
 19 Town of Lansing. He provided background on the plan's development, mentioning the town's
 20 Agriculture Plan (2015) and Agriculture Zoning District (2023), and emphasized the use of two
 21 key inventories: the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and Scenic Resources Inventory (SRI)
 22 of 2021. The presentation and subsequent Q&A session touched on various topics, including
 23 the plan's approach to rural planning, conservation strategies, and community engagement. He
 24 highlighted public outreach efforts, including 12 Conservation Advisory Council meetings, a
 25 community survey, two public workshops, a story map, and a pop-up booth at the town
 26 carnival. The plan's key elements include inventory and analysis, open space ranking, and
 27 potential implementation options like conservation programs and amendments to
 28 development regulations.

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30 **Executive Committee Report** – Cait reported on the completion of the 2023 annual report, which
31 she will present at the next Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality legislative committee.
32 Bylaw updates and onboarding materials for new members were also discussed. The May meeting
33 will be held in person at Stewart Park in conjunction with municipal conservation boards and
34 commissions.

35 **Municipal Update: Town of Enfield** – *Peter Penniman*

36 Peter presented a detailed look at the Town of Enfield. This nearly equal-split agricultural and
37 residential town has land-use protections through various plans and regulations. His slides
38 showcased Enfield's rural charm, natural beauty, and outdoor recreation opportunities.
39 Environmental accomplishments include a drinking water program, sustainability committee,
40 and waste reduction initiatives. However, challenges exist, particularly with manure spreading
41 from dairy farms on rented land, which can impact the town's water sources. Peter also discussed
42 Enfield's lack of water and sewer infrastructure. Attendees inquired about the future of zoning in
43 Enfield, currently a point of contention in some other municipalities. Peter shared that while
44 there has been an increase in small single-family homes, overall development hasn't changed
45 significantly. The potential for future development near Ithaca exists, but Enfield's population
46 has remained stable for decades.

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

48 **Committee Updates (as needed)** – Updates covered several topics focused on improving
49 communication and collaboration internally within the council itself and externally with other
50 partners and the broader community. The group reviewed the council's ongoing task list, which
51 includes creating a visual representation of local environmental organizations and their
52 connections, developing five-year goals, and other initiatives. Additionally, attendees explored
53 the possibility of establishing a database of local environmental organizations to facilitate public
54 access and informed connections. They also discussed updating the EMC website. Members
55 were encouraged to subscribe to Green Scene, the council's email newsletter, to stay updated on
56 upcoming events and initiatives and to share it with others in their networks.

57 **Staff Report (as needed)** – None

58 **Member Announcements** – Peter expressed regrets that he will miss the May meeting at Stewart Park
59 due to travel.

60 **Meeting Wrap-up** – Cait thanked everyone for attending.

61 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:26pm.