

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

45 Comeau Drive, Woodstock, NY 12498

Susan M. Paynter, Chair
Arlene Weissman, Vice-Chair
Julia Blelock
Laurie Kirby
Evan Neumann
Joe Otters
Kenneth Panza, Secretary

The Open Meetings Law requires: Minutes of meetings of all public bodies shall be available to the public in accordance with the provisions of the freedom of information law within two weeks from the date of such meeting except that minutes taken pursuant to subdivision two of this section shall be available to the public within one week from the date of the executive session.

Minutes for the Meeting of February 4, 2026

Call to Order

A quorum being present, WEC Chair Susan Paynter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

WEC Members Present

Susan M. Paynter, Chair	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Arlene Weissman, Vice-Chair	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Julia Blelock	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Laurie Kirby	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Evan Neumann	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Joe Otters	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Kenneth Panza, Secretary	Term: expires 12/31/2026

Guests Present

Marcel Nagele,
Woodstockers United for Change

Rachel Marco-Havens
Woodstock Chamber of Commerce &
Arts, Community Liaison

Laura Ricci, Councilwoman
Town Board Liaison
Climate Smart Task Force

Linda Setchell, Chair
Climate Smart Task Force

Lizzie Vann, Bearsville Center
Climate Smart Task Force

Dr. Keisha Hoerrner,
Communications & Outreach Manager,
Woodstock Land Conservancy

Linda Lover,
Woodstockers United for Change

Vincent Mow,
Woodstockers United for Change
Matthew Eshed,
Western Colorado University
Masters of Environmental Management
Sylvia Bullett

Laurie Felber, Third Act
Jo Schwartz, Beyond Plastics,
Citizens Concerned About Plastic
Pollution (CCAPP)

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda, as modified, approved by unanimous consent.

Consideration of Minutes

Minutes for the WEC meeting of January 21, 2026, previously updated and distributed, were approved by unanimous consent.

Correction to the Minutes of January 21, 2026

Councilwoman Laura Rici was inadvertently left off the list of guests present at the January 21 WEC meeting. Laura did attend the January 21 meeting.

[Archive of 2026 WEC Minutes](#)

[Archive of 2025 WEC Minutes](#)

Correspondence

Received email from Ulster County **Legislator Jeff Collins** confirming support of '**Trails Only**' **use along** the undesignated, 1.8-mile section of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad corridor for reasons stated in WEC's letter.

Announcements

- Supervisor established the Woodstock **Climate Smart Communities Task Force** and appointed Linda Setchell, Bob Wolff, Laura Ricci, Edward Swanson, Chloe Leader, Kaitlana Viglielmo and Lizzie Vann as members. **Linda Setchell** was appointed as the Climate Smart Task Force Chair.
- **Linda Setchell** appointed as representative for the Town of Woodstock to the Ulster County **Environmental Management Council (EMC)**.
- **Saturday, February 7, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**
Repair Café — Toss it? No way!
Woodstock Community Center, 56 Rock City Road, Woodstock
Hosted by Woodstock NY Transition and the Woodstock Environmental Commission
- **Sally Rodgers** joined AWSMP as Education Program Manager. Sally graduated in May 2025 with a Masters of Science in Climate Science and Policy from Bard College. She also earned a BA in Environmental Sustainability and Decision Making with a minor in Legal Studies from St. John's University in 2022. Sally's Master's thesis focused on flood mitigation in Ulster County. She has a range of work experience including Environmental Educator with the Hudson River Park, field data collection, and municipal technical assistance for policy review and analysis. She came to CCE from Ulster County, where she was an Emergency Management Fellow where she centered her work on building resilience to the effects of climate change within the county.

- Ulster County launches ‘**Green the Scene**’ grant program to support zero-waste events. Eligible grant expenses include zero waste supplies (bins, compostable bags, compostable service ware, cleaning supplies, etc.), hauling and composting services. Ulster County is seeking to **hire a Zero-Waste Coordinator** for the 2026 festival season to improve organic waste diversion and educate the public on best recycling practices at key events in Ulster County.
- **Marc Rider, Executive Director, UCRRA**, is offering local communities a presentation on "**Together Toward Zero**," UCRRA's plan for diverting 30% of Ulster County's waste by 2030; 60% by 2040; and 90% by 2050.
- [Circular Economy Summit February 13, 2026](#): The Circular Economy Strategic Plan is a plan for Ulster County to divert reusable and recyclable materials before they enter the waste stream. With seed funding from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, the project is being implemented by Sustainable Hudson Valley and Circularly, a Public Benefit Corporation that helps businesses and communities build the infrastructure required to make a just and circular economy a reality.

Rachel Marco-Havens

Presented a proposal for a composting program that involves Woodstock’s Community Garden and [Greenway Environmental Services](#), patterned on the [Town of Hurley Zero Waste Initiative](#).

Marcel Nagele, Woodstockers United for Change Shady Dump/10 Church Rd

Marcel reminded the WEC that it has been seven years since the contaminated C&D material was dumped at 10 Church Rd. Since then, the New York State Attorney General reached a \$6 million settlement with Karolas, the owner of the processing site that was the source of contaminated C&D debris, and the haulers that trucked C&D material from New York City to the Karolas’ site.

Some of the settlement funds have been distributed to victims, and Marcel encouraged the WEC to take the necessary steps to reestablish the zoning violations at 10 Church Rd and become eligible for payments from the settlement funds.

New Business

Earth Day – Susan Paynter

The Chair invited Woodstock’s eco-leaders to join an Earth Week brainstorming during WEC’s meeting on Wednesday, Feb 4th at 6:00 at the Comeau. This year, Earth Day has evolved into Earth Week.

A full and vibrant discussion took place, with many excellent ideas and proposals for events during Earth Week. The discussions and planning will continue as the organizers focus on timing, venue availability, and the capabilities necessary to support a week-long, multiple event activity.

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22 to promote environmental protection, raise awareness about issues like pollution and climate change, and encourage global action for a sustainable future. Initiated in 1970, it serves as a reminder to protect natural resources and supports the modern environmental movement.

Old Business

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) – Susan Paynter, Arlene Weissman & Julia Blelock

Supervisor established the Woodstock Climate Smart Communities Task Force and appointed Linda Setchell, Bob Wolff, Laura Ricci, Edward Swanson, Chloe Leader, Kaitlana Viglielmo and Lizzie Vann as members. Linda Setchell was appointed as the Climate Smart Task Force Chair. Susan Paynter, Arlene Weissman and Julia Blelock will continue as advisors to the task force.

DWSP2 Plan Implementation – Arlene Weissman & Julia Blelock

Town of Woodstock requested a pause as they review the DWSP2 draft plan. Launch date has been postponed to March.

WLC/WEC Collaboration – Arlene Weissman & Julia Blelock

The DWSP2 working group agreed to make a brief (10-to-15-minute) presentation, in conjunction with the Woodstock Environmental Commission at the WLC event, “How Is the Sawkill?” on Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 7:30 PM at Mountainview Studios. DWSP2 will co-host a table with WEC.

Landfill Biofilter Project MOU – Laura Ricci

The Town Board approved the Landfill Biofilter Project MOU at its February 3rd meeting.

Public be Heard

Adjournment

Next scheduled WEC Meeting,
Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 PM,
Comeau Great Room

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary
Woodstock Environmental Commission

Other Meeting Announcements

February 17, 2026 08:30 AM, How Development Impacts the Biodiversity of our Region

Via Zoom. Erik Kiviat, executive director of Hudsonia, joins us for this special opening webinar of our 2026 Morning Coffee Series to present his talk, "Biodiversity Change: What a Damaged Landscape Teaches About the Future of the Mid-Hudson Region."

[Register for a Zoom Link](#)

Saturday, March 14, 5 to 7:30 pm at Mountainview Studios, "How is the Sawkill?"

Woodstock Land Conservancy's 2026 program, "Ecologies of Water," features the book, *Drinkable Rivers* by Li An Phoa and Maarten Van Der Schaaf, that promotes awareness and action for healthy waterways through events, workshops, and citizen science, and connecting local water health to global efforts for clean, living rivers.

[Reserve Your Tickets for March 14](#)