

# 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 March 4, 2026

### Call to Order

A quorum being present,  
WEC Vice-Chair Arlene Weissman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### WEC Members Present

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
Kenneth Panza, Secretary	Term: expires 12/31/2026

### Guests Present

Linda Setchell, Coordinator  
Climate Smart Task Force  
Marcel Nagele,  
Woodstockers United for Change  
DWSP2 Working Group  
Vincent Mow,  
Woodstockers United for Change

Linda Lover,  
Woodstockers United for Change  
Rebekah Brooks  
Woodstock Housing Committee  
Matthew Eshed,  
Western Colorado University  
Masters of Environmental Management

### Approval of the Agenda

Agenda, as modified, approved by unanimous consent.

## Consideration of Minutes

Minutes for the WEC meeting of February 18, 2026, previously updated and distributed, were approved by unanimous consent.

[Archive of 2026 WEC Minutes](#)

[Archive of 2025 WEC Minutes](#)

## Correspondence

Email from **Evelyn Laferriere, Clean Energy and Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, Hudson Valley Regional Council**. Evelyn is under contract through the Ulster County Department of the Environment to provide technical assistance for municipal climate and clean energy projects, and is available to assist with Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities applications.

Email from HVRC announcing that **NYSERDA is seeking feedback** on the development of a new Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program. Provides an opportunity for municipal staff and elected officials, community board members, and staff from other public-purpose town departments such as police and fire, to provide feedback on the upcoming Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program, anticipated to be launched in the spring of 2026. NYSERDA is requesting input on general program design, benefits of specific clean energy actions, and grant options. Response is due by March 20, 2026 at 3pm. Target Respondents: Municipal staff and elected officials, community board members, and staff from other public-purpose town departments such as police and fire.

## Announcements – Executive Order #3

Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger announced that she has signed [Executive Order #3](#) creating a Climate Smart Community Task Force and a Local Government Climate Action Partnership that affirms the county's climate commitment at a time of federal rollbacks.

*The Ulster County Climate Smart Communities Task Force* will guide, coordinate, and implement the County's sustainability and resilience initiatives and administer its application for renewal of Climate Smart certification.

*The Local Government Climate Action Partnership*, a sub-committee of the Environmental Management Council consisting of one member from each city, town, and village Climate Smart Communities Committee, will promote best-practices for greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation strategies within the municipalities in furtherance of certification under the Climate Smart Communities Program and the County's Community and Climate Action Plan.

## Invited Guest Speaker

None

## Old Business

### Earth Week Preparations, Update – Evan Neumann

It was suggested that a budget for Earth Week be prepared that Laura Ricci, Town Board Liaison, can present to the town board for approval.

Susan Paynter, Chair, reviewed by phone, the status of Earth Week with Evan Neumann. A list of Earth Week participants and activities is included in WEC meeting minutes of February 18, 2026.

### Willow LFA Meeting – Arlene Weissman

Arlene Weissman met with Leslie Zucker, Program Manager for the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP); Sally Rodgers, Education Program Manager, AWSMP; and Beth Reichheld, former director, NYCDEP Stream Management Program, to discuss the proposed Local Flood Analysis (LFA) for the Beaver Kill. Requirements for the town participation include:

- 1) Adopting by resolution the Beaver Kill Stream Management Plan and establishing the town's intent to collaborate with the AWSMP on a Local Flood Analysis for the Beaver Kill in Willow.
- 2) A Town resolution to establish a Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) and its membership. We recommend representatives from the Highway Department, the Floodplain Administrator and Town Supervisor be appointed to the committee for a successful LFA project.
- 3) The LFA Scope of Services and consultant selection process. Options for consultant contract administration.
- 4) Identify FAC technical advisors, how meetings can be handled, and the goals for a pre-application FAC meeting.

### Climate Smart Communities (CSC) – Linda Setchell, Task Force Coordinator

Linda Setchell, Climate Smart Task Force Coordinator, met with Ann Margret of the Woodstock Community Garden and Rachel Marco-Havens to discuss participating in the Hurley composting program. Hurley has a grant to remove 100 tons of organic waste from the Hurley waste stream using at home, iHome composters and larger, community drop-off composting units. There are many details to be worked out before Woodstock can participate.

The Climate Smart Task Force is updating the Community Climate Action Plan by reassessing base line data and establishing new goals for reducing emissions.

## New Business

### Central Hudson Herbicide Application – Evan Neumann

Evan Neumann received a letter from Central Hudson warning him that the company would be using herbicides on the company's rights-of-way alongside his property. This is a matter of great concern, and limited time before the meeting did not allow investigation of the listed herbicides. Suggestions were discussed for follow-up actions.

**Big Deep, Little Deep Signage – Evan Neumann**

Evan Neumann submitted examples of language from multiple jurisdictions regulating the behavior of dogs. These examples were discussed in the context of recommendations for proposed signage based on enforceable town, county and state laws at Big Deep and Little Deep.

The Supervisor is considering forming a parks and recreation department, which would have jurisdiction over the town’s park lands. WEC agreed to submit a letter containing these examples to the town board for its consideration.

A summary of problems identified at Big Deep and Little Deep is available in the minutes of the WEC of August 6, 2025.

**Planning Board workshop sessions – Julia Blelock**

Julia Blelock has arranged for a joint WEC/Planning Board meeting to establish a working relationship and understanding of the WEC’s role in the planning board’s process and procedure. The selected date for the joint meeting is May 7 at 6:00 pm.

**Large Scale Energy Moratorium – Ken Panza**

WEC approved submitting a letter to the town board recommending a one-year moratorium on large-scale energy facilities to allow time to update the zoning law, as required by the Comprehensive Plan, for renewable energy sources.

A copy of the letter is included as an attachment to these minutes.

Resolution offered by Kenneth Panza, seconded by Arlene Weissman, to send the draft letter asking the town board for authorization to propose legal language establishing a one-year moratorium on large-scale energy developments.

The resolution was adopted: 5 in the affirmative, 2 absent.

	Voted Affirmative	Voted Opposing	Abstain	Absent
Susan M. Paynter, Chair				X
Arlene Weissman, Vice-Chair	X			
Julia Blelock	X			
Laurie Kirby	X			
Evan Neumann	X			
Joe Otters				X
Kenneth Panza	X			

Public be Heard

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary  
Woodstock Environmental Commission

Attachment

Letter to the Town Board recommending one-year moratorium on large-scale energy facilities.

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

Invited Speaker, Tracey Bouvette  
Saugerties Landfill Contamination

No WEC Meeting on April 1

## Other Meeting Announcements

**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.

[Overlook News](#) announced that on **March 24, 6 p.m., at the Mescal Hornbeck Community Center** Woodstock's Complete Streets Committee will hold a public meeting to update residents on a plan to extend village sidewalks into a pedestrian and bike path stretching as far as Bearsville.

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK  
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Colony of the Arts

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WOODSTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 4, 2026

Woodstock Town Board  
45 Comeau Drive  
Woodstock, NY 12498

## Proposal for One Year Moratorium on Large Energy Facilities

The 2018 Comprehensive Plan, pages 37 and 38, calls for "updating the zoning laws to address all aspects of renewable energy," an action that has not been completed. The events in the towns of Ulster and Saugerties are a wake-up call for what can happen when a town has not considered the ramifications of the Climate Act.

Without due consideration in the comprehensive plan and zoning law, the town forgoes the opportunity for sustainable and appropriate development of large-scale energy resources. A one year moratorium would allow the town to consider priority placement and regulation of large scale energy facilities before the developers arrive.

On June 20, 2024, the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) issued the order, ESTABLISHING UPDATED STORAGE GOAL AND DEPLOYMENT POLICY. By this Order, the commission adopted an updated statewide deployment goal of 6 GW of energy storage resources by 2030, with an interim goal of 1.5 GW by 2025. Governor Kathy Hochul on June 20, 2024, endorsed the PSC's 6-gigawatt Energy Storage Roadmap.

The Woodstock Environmental Commission reviewed the PSC order and agrees the programs and recommendations contained within New York's Energy Storage Roadmap will move the State closer to reaching its climate goals. WEC recognizes the PSC order as the official document defining The New York Energy Storage Roadmap.

Current zoning laws give preference to utility infrastructure, and for the last hundred years, what constituted utility infrastructure was well understood. But new technologies – solar, batteries, fuel cells, etc. – were unanticipated and have required zoning enforcement officers

to make determinations about utility infrastructure without guidance from the law or governing bodies. To an extent, this has happened in the towns of Ulster and Saugerties.

A one year moratorium would allow time to update and clarify Woodstock's zoning laws to include consideration of the new energy technologies.

The Woodstock Environmental Commission is asking for Town Board authorization to submit language for its consideration that would enact a one-year moratorium on development of large scale energy facilities in Woodstock.

Respectfully submitted,  
Woodstock Environmental Commission

Letter considered at the March 4, 2026 meeting of the Woodstock Environmental Commission. Resolution introduced by Kenneth Panza, seconded by Arlene Weissman.

Resolution adopted: 5 votes affirmative, 2 absent.

	Voted Affirmative	Voted Opposing	Abstain	Absent
Susan M. Paynter, Chair				X
Arlene Weissman, Vice-Chair	X			
Julia Blelock	X			
Laurie Kirby	X			
Evan Neumann	X			
Joe Otters				X
Kenneth Panza	X			