

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 January 21, 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
Joe Otters	Term: expires 12/31/2026
Kenneth Panza, Secretary	Term: expires 12/31/2026

Guests Present

Cory Smith, Resident, Raybrook Dr.
Deb Adelman, Resident, Raybrook Dr.
Peter Wortmann, Resident, Raybrook Dr.
Linda Setchell, Climate Smart Task Force
Marcel Nagele,
Woodstockers United for Change
DWSP2 Working Group
Linda Lover,
Woodstockers United for Change

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda, as modified, approved by unanimous consent.

Consideration of Minutes

Minutes for the WEC meeting of January 7, 2026, previously updated and distributed, were approved by unanimous consent.

[Correction to the Minutes of January 7, 2026](#)

Acting Chair noted the January 7, 2026 meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

[Archive of 2026 WEC Minutes](#)

[Archive of 2025 WEC Minutes](#)

Correspondence

None received

Announcements

None

Invited Guest Speaker

Cory Smith, resident on Raybrook Dr., explained a new proposal to develop a property in the Town of Saugerties adjacent to Raybrook Dr. Several years ago, Terramor presented a proposal to use this property as a high-end, luxury camping site. For a variety of reasons, Terramor withdrew their application.

[On November 18, 2025, Solo Holidays, LLC, submitted to the Saugerties Planning Board](#) a proposal for a 9-lot subdivision on 70-acres on the former Terramor property with single access from Route 212 on Cottontail Road. The smallest parcel proposed is 3 acres and the largest is 26 acres. This proposed use is the least impactful from the past two previously presented for these parcels.

In October 2020, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), announced it will conduct Site Characterization at the Saugerties Town Landfill site. Due to detections of 1,4-Dioxane¹, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)², and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)³ in groundwater

¹ 1,4-Dioxane is a man-made, clear liquid solvent used in various industrial processes and found as a trace byproduct in some consumer products like detergents, cosmetics, and shampoos, often formed during ethoxylation. Known as a probable human carcinogen, it poses health risks through ingestion or prolonged exposure, potentially harming the liver, kidneys, and respiratory system, and is a common groundwater contaminant due to its stability and mobility in water.

² Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a man-made chemical, part of the broader PFAS family, known for repelling water, grease, and stains, leading to its use in non-stick cookware, carpets, and firefighting foams; however, it's a persistent "forever chemical" linked to potential health risks like certain cancers and developmental issues, with global production largely phased out but environmental contamination remaining a concern,

³ Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a persistent, man-made chemical in the PFAS family, known for repelling water, oil, stains, and grease, used in products like Scotchgard, carpets, and firefighting foams, but phased out in many places due to health concerns like liver damage, immune effects, and potential links to cancer, as it doesn't break down easily and accumulates in the body and environment.

samples, the site has been designated as a Potential State Superfund Site (“P Site”). This designation requires the completion of a Site Characterization to determine if the site meets the criteria for placement on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.

[Fact Sheet: Site Characterization Investigation at Town of Saugerties Landfill](#)

The goal of a Site Characterization is to assess the presence of hazardous waste and whether that waste poses a significant threat to human health or the environment.

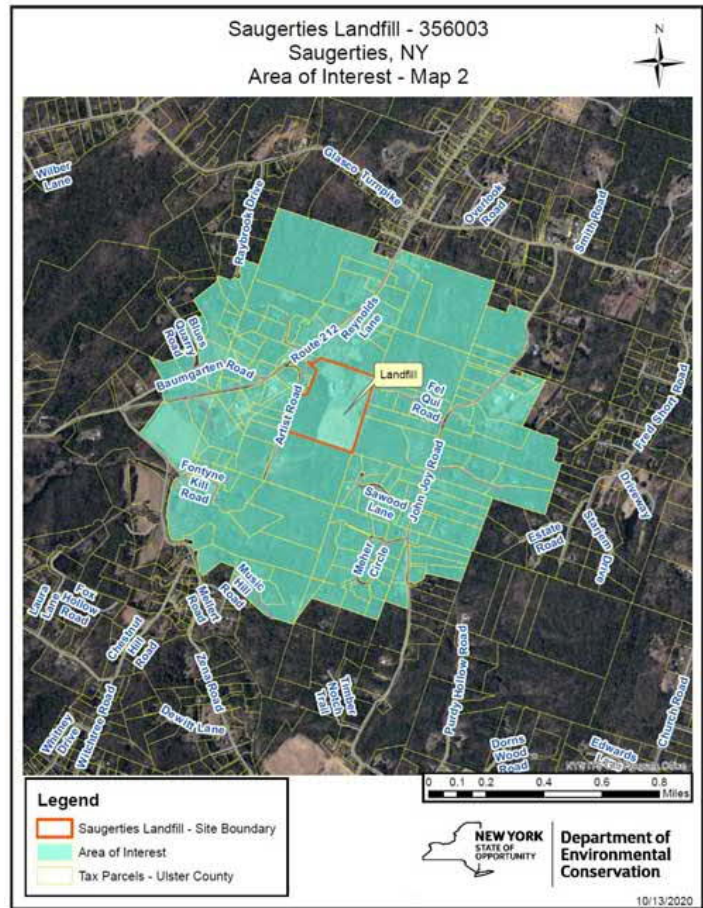
Previous Saugerties Landfill Investigations:

DEC’s Division of Materials Management performed groundwater sampling in October 2017 as part of the Inactive Landfill Initiative, a program to assess solid waste landfills for the potential presence of emerging contaminants (e.g., PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane) and ensure protection of public health and the environment.

Results from that investigation indicated 1,4-Dioxane, PFOA, and PFOS concentrations in groundwater above the State’s stringent maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The MCLs are as follows: 1 part per billion (ppb) for 1,4-Dioxane, 10 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA, and 10 ppt for PFOS.

To fully examine exposure pathways, including drinking water supplies, DEC in consultation with DOH identified and offered free sampling for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane to 94 parcels with private drinking water wells in the vicinity of the landfill. A total of 79 properties with private wells have since been tested to date. Based on those test results, bottled water is being provided to 57 property owners.

DEC will continue to test properties within the attached Area of Interest/Map 2. If you are within the targeted sampling area designated in light blue on Map 2 and are uncertain if your well has been sampled, please reach out to DOH at the contact information provided on Page 1.



Old Business

Letter Endorsing Undesignated Rail Segment for Trail Use Only

The focus the WEC meeting of December 3, 2025, was a presentation by the Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail on the proposal to connect the Ashokan Rail Trail to the Kingston Linear Park

by utilizing a 1.8-mile undesignated section of the former Ulster & Delaware Railroad corridor between Route 28A in Stony Hollow and Basin Road. The former Ulster & Delaware Railroad is a single track railbed that would need to be widened to accommodate both trail and rail shared use. The railbed in the undesignated section passes through federally-regulated wetlands and between narrow rock cuts, where widening the railbed could impose enormous financial cost and environmental disruption. A single use, rail or train, would avoid rebuilding the undesignated segment.

Resolution: approve sending a letter to the Woodstock Town Board and the Ulster County Legislature, Trails Advisory Committee supporting a trail-only policy along the undesignated section as the only environmentally sound way to achieve the benefits of trail connectivity.

Resolution introduced by Arlene Weismann, seconded by Julia Blelock.

	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			

Resolution adopted; six affirmative, one absent.

Review of Public Environmental Outreach Survey

A summary of the results of the public outreach survey from the Scarecrow Festival and results obtained from the WEC Facebook page were reviewed and discussed. The following focus areas were identified:

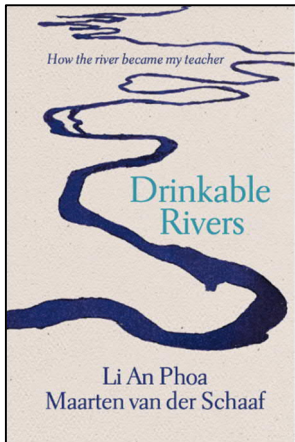
Flood resilience and mitigation	Arlene Weissman Ken Panza
Habitat protection	Julia Blelock Laurie Kirby
Responsible Building and road construction	Julia Blelock Laurie Kirby
Liaison Tree Committee	Joe Otters

Expanded forestry protection law	Joe Otters
Pollinator Pathway	Joe Otters
Big Deep & Little Deep	Evan Neumann
Shady Dump/10 Church Road	Susan Paynter, Julia Blelock, Arlene Weissman, Laurie Kirby, Marcel Nagele

Landfill Biofilter Project

The Town Board will consider the Landfill Biofilter Project MOU at its February 3rd meeting. Mary Lambert and Dr. Sehrish Asghar from the Hudson Valley Regional Council will present, via Zoom, the biofilter project at the February 3rd town board meeting.

WEC/WLC Collaboration



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

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.

Please Register to Screen "Our Blue World"
Film Series Premieres Jan. 26

"Our Blue World: A Water Odyssey" explores humanity's profound relationship with water and reveals how human agency can help rebalance the planet's water systems. This incredible documentary, which features *Drinkable Rivers* author Li An Phoa walking along the Hudson River, will move you with its revelations of the profound relationships with have with water.

Join WLC, Woodstock NY Transition and the Woodstock Jewish Congregation next **Monday evening at 7 p.m.** for the first of four events in the 2026 Film & Discussion Series.

Earth Day – April 25

Consider partnering with Woodstock Land Conservancy for Earth Day activities.

Climate Smart Communities

Susan Paynter, Julia Blelock and Arlene Weissman have formed a working group to consider the next steps for Woodstock's participation in the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program.

New Business

Update on Terramor property development
Site Characterization Investigation at Saugerties Landfill

See discussion above.

Public be Heard

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary
Woodstock Environmental Commission

Next scheduled WEC Meeting,
Wednesday, February 4, 6:00 PM,
Comeau Great Room

Attachments

Letter Endorsing Undesignated Rail Segment for Trail Use Only

Other Meeting Announcements

Monday, Jan. 26, 7 to 9 pm, "Our Blue World: A Water Odyssey"

Woodstock Land Conservancy is partnering with Woodstock NY Transition and Woodstock Jewish Congregation to host the 2026 Film and Discussion Series. The first event will be held Jan. 26 from 7-9 p.m. with a free screening of "Our Blue World: A Water Odyssey". Attend in person at the Woodstock Jewish Congregation or through Zoom.

[Reservations required for Zoom.](#)

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 12:00 – 1:00 pm,

“Stream Management and Turbidity Reductions in the Upper Esopus Creek Watershed.”

A presentation by Jason Siemion and Donald Bonville, the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Stream stabilization projects are used by watershed managers in the upper Esopus Creek watershed to disconnect streams from fine-grained sediment sources. Fine sediments can make stream water turbid or cloudy. The AWSMP has supported studies that shed light on the ability of stream restoration projects to reduce turbidity in streams.

[Webinar Link](#)

The AWSMP is hosting webinars in January and February highlighting developments in applied research and stream management practices. The webinars will focus on knowledge developed through AWSMP grants for research and monitoring projects.

Saturday, February 7, 10 am to 2 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

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.

Deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, Stream Project Funding Available

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) is now accepting applications for stream projects to restore channels, improve infrastructure, boost flood resilience, provide education, and carry out planning and research studies.

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program accepts SMIP grant applications during three funding rounds each year. The next regular funding round will be announced in January 2026 with a deadline in mid-March. About \$1,000,000 is available each year for stream and flood mitigation projects.

[AWSMP Projects and Funding](#)

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To: Woodstock Town Board
Trails Advisory Committee, Ulster County Legislature

January 21, 2026

In Support of Trail-Only Designation for U&D Corridor Undesignated Section

In April 2024 the Woodstock Town Board approved a resolution (see attachment) supporting trail connectivity between the City of Kingston and the Ashokan Rail Trail, and requesting that Ulster County fulfill its mandate to work towards accomplishing connectivity along the U&D Corridor. One stumbling block in the way of achieving this is the controversy over the undesignated section of the U&D Corridor between mileposts 8.33 and 10. We write to urge you to support a trail-only policy along this section as the only environmentally sound way to achieve the benefits of trail connectivity.

The health and environmental benefits of the Ashokan Rail Trail have been demonstrated, and the multiplier effect on these benefits of connecting with the wider network of pedestrian and bike trails, in Ulster County and beyond, are widely accepted. The undesignated section is a crucial and irreplaceable missing link in connecting the ART with Kingston and with New York State's growing trail system, and hopefully in the future with Woodstock: the Towns of Woodstock and Hurley are already cooperating in a feasibility evaluation for the proposed Woodstock-West Hurley (WooHu) trail to connect Woodstock with the ART.

An alternative proposal for the undesignated section comes from Catskill Mountain Railroad and envisages a dual-use rail-with-trail corridor. This would come at a high environmental price. Much of this section simply has no room for both railroad and shared-use walking/cycling trail. Approximately half a mile of it is on a narrow high-fill track with wetlands on both sides. Another segment is in a narrow and deep rock cut. Both these segments would need considerable widening to achieve rail-with-trail standards, involving blasting, massive mounts of fill, and destruction of wetlands, and incurring millions of dollars of additional cost.

A trail-only designation for this publicly owned property would provide more benefits for the public, and the project can be designed so that Catskill Mountain Railroad also gets an

extension of its tracks and the benefit of a terminus connecting with the ART and local businesses.

We support a trail-only designation as the only feasible way to give Ulster County residents the benefits of a connected trail system.

Sincerely,

Woodstock Environmental Commission