

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

Agenda for the Meeting of January 7, 2026

Call to Order

WEC Members Present

Guests Present

Approval of the Agenda

Consideration of Minutes for the WEC meeting of December 3, 2025, previously updated and distributed

An archive of 2025 WEC meeting minutes is available on Google Drive and can be accessed at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17fj4IKp27H6kxnmbjSstgTxoikIVZ42d?usp=sharing>

WEC Officers for 2026

Correspondence

Announcements

Complete Streets Committee Receives \$46,567 Grant

December 23, 2025, Governor Hochul Announces \$463 Million Awarded Statewide Through Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. Woodstock received a \$46,567 grant to develop a "Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan"

"The town of Woodstock will develop a comprehensive bike and pedestrian master plan covering the hamlet center and extending westward toward the hamlet of Bearsville. The study will assess current infrastructure conditions, identify barriers to safe and accessible non-motorized travel, and develop a strategic plan to improve walkability, bikeability, and multimodal circulation."

Invited Guest Speakers

Ulster County Department of the Environment

Andy Bicking, Director, Ulster County Department of Environment was appointed **director** in September. Prior, Andy served as Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, where he oversaw statewide conservation programs, public communications, and advocacy efforts. Before that, he spent more than two decades with Scenic Hudson, where he held

multiple leadership roles, including Director of Government Relations & Public Policy, and spearheading major legislative campaigns and regional planning initiatives.

Brendan Walsh, Environmental Outreach Manager, Department of the Environment.
Brendan is a recent graduate of the Bard Center for Environmental Policy with a Masters in Science of Environmental Policy.

Hudson Valley Regional Council – Biofilter Program

**Mary Lambert, Climate Action Planning Manager, Hudson Valley Regional Council
Manager for HVRC's Landfill Biofilters Project**

Ms. Lambert previously served on the Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Trustees, as the Co-Chair of the Hastings Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force, and as a member of the Hastings Conservation Commission. Ms. Lambert received a master's degree in Business Administration from Columbia University and her bachelor's degree in American Studies from Yale University.

Dr. Sehrish Asghar, Environmental Scientist, Hudson Valley Regional Council

Dr. Asghar joined HVRC in 2025. She is an Environmental Scientist working on HVRC's landfill biofilters project. In this role, she oversees the design and deployment of biofilter systems to mitigate methane from closed landfills, advancing low-cost, natural solutions for greenhouse gas reductions. Dr. Asghar earned her Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho where her research focused on optimizing sequencing batch reactors for nutrient removal from dairy manure. She also holds a Master of Philosophy in Microbiology from Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan.

Woodstock Climate Smart Communities Program

Erin Moran, Coordinator, Woodstock Climate Smart Task Force

Jay Decker, Complete Streets Committee

Erin was invited to address the WEC to inform the new members about Woodstock's participation in DEC's Climate Smart Communities Program. Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a voluntary New York State program to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles.

Old Business

Letter endorsing the undesignated rail segment for trail use only – Laurie Kirby

Review of Public Environmental Priorities Outreach Survey – Evan Neumann

New Business

Earth Day

WEC/WLC Collaboration

Public be Heard

Adjournment