

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

45 Comeau Drive, Woodstock, NY 12498

Stacey Anderson
Evan Neumann
Joe Otters
Kenneth Panza
Susan M. Paynter
Open Position
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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 July 16, 2025

Call to Order

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

WEC Members Present

Stacey Anderson Term: expires 12/31/2025

Evan Neumann Term: expires 12/31/2026

Joe Otters Term: expires 12/31/2026

Kenneth Panza Term: expires 12/31/2025

Susan M. Paynter Term: expires 12/31/2025

Guests Present

Laura Ricci, Town Councilwoman

Julia Blelock, DWSP2 Working Group

Arlene Weissman, DWSP2 Working Group

Marcel Nagele, Woodstockers United for Change

Laurie Kirby, WEC Applicant

Sarah Yanosh

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda as presented by the acting chair was approved by unanimous consent.

Consideration of Minutes

No minutes from previous meetings were available for consideration. This meeting of the Environmental Commission is its first meeting in a year.

Correspondence

Erin Moran, Climate Smart Task Force Coordinator, requested a meeting with the commission. The commission decided to postpone a meeting on Climate Smart until after all members are formally appointed and in place, and the chair and secretary have been appointed by the town board.

Announcements

No announcements.

Old Business

Climate Change Education and Engagement Project

Stacy Anderson briefed the commission on her activities on the Climate Change Education and Engagement project, a Climate Smart action item. The strategy was developed by Anna Harrod-McGrew, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County, in conjunction with the Town of Woodstock Climate Smart Task Force.

The project will focus on conveying local disaster preparedness information to community residents. It will compile relevant information for a webpage (to be hosted on the Town's website), a series of social media posts offering helpful information and directing people to the website, and a printed rack card.

[Community Engagement Strategy: Town of Woodstock](#)

At its August 20, 2024 meeting, the Woodstock Town Board, by Resolution 149-2024, adopted the CLIMATE CHANGE AND EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT project.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Woodstock, in order to continue its work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge Element 9, Climate Change Education and Engagement and commits to partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County to develop a webpage for the Town website addressing climate change emergencies by presenting information, photographs, resources, and links for residents and by hosting up to 12 social media posts to inform Town residents of this new resource.

New Business

Introductions

Stacy Anderson, a continuing member of the commission, was working on Climate Change Education and Engagement project, a Climate Smart action item. This is an important project, and Stacy will continue to work on it. The relevant information has been collected, but needs to be uploaded onto the town's website.

Susan Paynter, a continuing member of the commission, lead the opposition to Terramor, a proposed 75-tent luxury camping resort on 77 acres in West Saugerties on the Woodstock border. Susan is also a principal with Stop Zena Development and co-chair of the stop Zena coalition. Susan was a founding principal of a k-8 environmental school.

Joe Otters is a gardener who lives in, and appreciates the importance of the Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area. Joe was a participate in the opposition to Terramor and is a supporter of Stop Zena Development.

Evan Neumann, a new member of the commission looking to get involved in the environmental issues facing the town.

Ken Panza, long time involvement with the commission as a town board member and as supervisor's liaison to the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee. Emphasized the importance of preparing for extreme weather and flooding.

Arlene Weissman and **Laurie Kirby**, whose applications to the WEC are pending before the town board, offered short introductions.

Review Mission

The mission statement for the Environmental Commission from town law was shared with the commission. The acting chair shared the following summary of the commission's mission:

The Woodstock Environmental Commission's duties include defining and identifying those areas of the environment that require protection and advising the Town Board when action is needed. The establishment of the Commission was deemed necessary to foster unified action on environmental concerns. The Commission has over the years expanded its interests to include environmental issues that affect the entire Catskill Park. The Commission's goal is to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and human-created environment of the Town on behalf of its present and future inhabitants.

The acting chair also reported that the narrative describing the commission's accomplishments on the town's website was out of date; the narrative mostly described events that occurred in 2007. Although current documents are available on the town's website, the existing narrative needs updating.

A copy of the town law establishing the Environmental Commission was distributed.

Sharing of WEC accomplishments

A listing of previous WEC accomplishments and projects was distributed. Several ongoing projects were discussed in some detail.

Arlene Weissman and Julia Blelock discussed the ongoing Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). This project, in cooperation with members of the New York State Health Department, is expected to complete by the end of the year. The next phase, beginning in January 2026, is implementation of its recommendations.

Laura Ricci and Arlene Weissman described the Community Heat Pump Project. The Town of Woodstock and Woodstock Transition partnered with CHA Consulting Inc. for a \$100,000, NYSERDA, Category A, Community Heat Pump Pilot Program grant. Community Heat Pump System (also called District-Style Heat Pump System) is a system serving a cluster of buildings, such as Woodstock's commercial hamlet, where heat pumps in two or more buildings are joined in a network of connector pipes and share common heat sources.

For over a year, representatives from the Town Board, Environmental Commission, and Transition Woodstock met monthly with engineers from CHA Consulting to formulate a district heating plan for Woodstock. The scoping study focused on the central corridor through the town including portions of Mill Hill Road, Tinker Street, Rock City Road and Route 375. The selected route consists of residential and commercial zoned districts with 170 diverse buildings types including houses, restaurants, apartments, retail stores, a school, and community buildings. The scoping study concluded in June 2024, and a final report was forwarded to NYSERDA for its review and comment. At this time, the town has not received a response from NYSERDA.

Marcel Nagele gave a short overview of the Shady Dump controversy. Marcel has been invited to provide the commission a briefing at its next meeting.

Several other items on the list of WEC Accomplishments and Projects were briefly discussed. The list is provided as an attachment to these minutes.

Choose a Secretary

Ken Panza volunteered to be secretary, Pro tempore

Decision on Meetings

The commission, by unanimous consent, voted to continue the practice of meeting twice a month, except in those circumstances when a meeting would conflict with scheduled holidays or events.

Public be Heard

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned promptly at 7:00 pm.

Next Meeting: 6:00 pm, August 6, 2025

Marcel Nagele was asked to present an overview of the Shady Dump controversy.

Cancelled because of vacations, the scheduled WEC meeting of August 20.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary Pro tempore
Woodstock Environmental Commission

Attachment:

An updated list requested by the acting chair of Environmental Commission of WEC projects and accomplishments sourced from agendas, minutes, and memory. Although not exhaustive, it does cover many of the major efforts. I included former WEC members in this distribution with an invitation to offer suggestions for items I missed.

WEC Projects/Accomplishments

Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area (CEA)

Natural Resources Inventory

NRI Maps available on the town's website

Water Resources

DWSP2

Water Supply Aquifer Mapping

Wellhead Protection Overlay District

10-Church Rd/Shady Dump

Lower Esopus Stream Management Implementation Plan

Ulster County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Planning Board

CEA Working Group

Calamar Lane Site Plan

Zoning Revisions/Updates

Woodstock Wetlands Law Updates

DEC Updated Freshwater Wetland Regulations

Site Plan Environmental Reviews

Youth Center Energy Audit

Youth Center Renovation/Project

DEC Climate Smart Communities

WEC Assigned Responsibility by Comprehensive Plan

Certified Bronze Level, September 2021

Waste Management

Composting

UCRRA Landfill Siting

Landfill Methane Monitoring

Earth Day Celebration

Pollinator Pathway

Monthly Events/Coordinating Council
Woodstock Pollinator Resolution
Roadside Chemical Spraying

In Partnership with Woodstock Transition

Repair Cafe
Town-Wide Heat Pump Project

Net-Zero Carbon Resolution

2007 Town Board Resolution to become carbon neutral
Achievement Recognized 2017
Solar Arrays for Municipal Parking Lot
Town solar arrays at WWTP

Memorializing Resolutions

Birds and the Bees legislation at the state level
Danskammer power plant expansion
Ashokan Pumped Storage Proposal

New Proposals

Disaster Planning/Flooding
Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group Meeting
Flora Fora Funga, fungal networks

Ulster County

Ulster County Environmental Management Council
Ulster County Climate Smart Committee