

# TOWN OF WOODSTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

45 Comeau Drive, Woodstock, NY 12498

Susan M. Paynter, Chair  
Arlene Weissman, Vice-Chair  
Stacey Anderson  
Laurie Kirby  
Evan Neumann  
Joe Otters  
Kenneth Panza

*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 December 3, 2025

### 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 12/31/2025
Arlene Weissman, Vice-Chair	Term: expires 12/31/2025
Stacey Anderson	Term: expires 12/31/2025
Laurie Kirby	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

### Guests Present

An estimated twenty guests, mostly representing Woodstock Land Conservancy, Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail, Woodstock Complete Streets, and representatives from the Hurley-Woodstock trail committee, known as “WooHu Trail,” were present at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> WEC meeting.

Andy Moseey, Executive Director  
Woodstock Land Conservancy

Patty Goodwin, President  
Woodstock Land Conservancy

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

Karl Beard, formally Project Specialist  
National Park Service

Grace Murphy, Co-Chair  
Complete Streets Committee

Howard Cohen, Co-Chair  
Complete Streets Committee

Stuart & Susan Auchincloss  
Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail

Irwin Rosenthal,  
Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail

Laura Ricci, Councilwoman

Laurie Osmond, Councilwoman Elect

Julia Blelock, DWSP2 Working Group

## Approval of the Agenda

Agenda, as modified, approved by unanimous consent.

## Consideration of Minutes

Minutes for the WEC meeting of November 19, 2025, previously updated and distributed, were approved by unanimous consent. An archive of 2025 WEC meeting minutes is available on Google Drive and can be accessed at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17fj4IKp27H6kxnbjSstgTxoikIVZ42d?usp=sharing>

## Correspondence

## Announcements

### Ulster County Department of the Environment new Staff

**Andy Bicking as Director of the Department of Environment (September)** Bicking most recently served as Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, where he oversaw statewide conservation programs, public communications, and advocacy efforts. Prior to serving in this position, he spent more than two decades at Scenic Hudson, where he held multiple leadership roles, including Director of Government Relations & Public Policy, and spearheading major legislative campaigns and regional planning initiatives. Bicking brings more than 25 years of experience in environmental policy, programs, and community engagement, and has been a resident of Ulster County for more than two decades.

**Ella Cattabiani as Watersheds Coordinator (November)** The Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan (SMP), published in early summer of 2024, was created to address issues along the 32-mile extent of the Esopus creek resulting from releases of muddy water from the Ashokan Reservoir. Funds from New York City DEP, state, and local resources will be used to fund the plan's recommendations. Ulster County's watershed manager will lead the county's participation in the Lower Esopus Stream Management Program. In addition to the Lower Esopus, comprehensive stream management programs have been prepared for the Rondout and Wallkill creeks. The county's watershed manager will be responsible for working with these watershed groups also. Ella Cattabiani was previously Environmental Program Specialist at New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Division of Materials Management, Region 3)

## Invited Guest Speakers

### Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail

The focus of tonight's presentation by the Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail was 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. There's conflict with the Catskill Mountain Railroad (CMRR) proposal to use the undesignated section for the tourist railroad and to build a railroad station at Basin Road. CMRR claims the undesignated section could support both trail and railroad usage, while the Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail claim dual usage on the undesignated section is infeasible –it's either used for the trail or for the railroad, not both.

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.

Ulster County legislative resolutions prioritized a trail connection from Kingston to Boiceville, and the Boiceville-to-Phoenicia section was reserved for tourist train operations. The trail would be co-located with the Kingston-based tourist train in the Kingston to Milepost 8.33 (intersection with Route 28A) section. But extending the tourist railroad to Basin Road would frustrate the county's intention to create a trail from Boiceville to Kingston.

Friends of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail called upon the Woodstock Environmental Commissions to support a "trail-only" policy on the undesignated section. The commission agreed to write a letter supporting the trail only policy. The undesignated segment is county property, and making it available for a trail would provide the most benefit and access for county residents, while avoiding the costs and environmental destruction caused by its widening.

### Woodstock Complete Streets Committee

Grace Murphy and Howard Cohen, co-chairs. Co-chair Grace Murphy reviewed the history and programs of the Complete Streets Committee. Co-chair Howard Cohen then explained Complete Streets role advising the Department of Transportation (DOT) about its project to reconstruct the Tinker St. bridges and improve sidewalks from the Village Green to Schoonmaker Lane.

The \$30 million dollar project will replace existing bridges, install ADA-compliant sidewalks, and improve road crossings. It's claimed that the project will remove many trees to create new sidewalks and bike trails. WEC Chair Susan Paynter received assurances from Complete Streets that the Tree Committee would be involved in discussions about removing and replacing Tinker St. trees. It's expected that the DOT will host a public information meeting early next year.

The proposal by Complete Streets to extend the Tinker St. project, with sidewalks and bike trails to Bearsville, was briefly discussed, but this extension has not been funded by DOT.

## Old Business

### New York Energy Storage Roadmap

The timeline of the PCS consideration and approvals of the New York Energy Storage Roadmap was provided to the WEC. As a governmental entity, we are expected to support the PSC Order. A copy of the timeline is attached to these minutes.

## New Business

### WEC Facebook Volunteer Survey/Volunteer Engagement

A questionnaire, first used at last fall's Scarecrow Festival and subsequently posted to Facebook, is collecting Woodstockers opinions and priorities about environmental issues. When completed, the survey results will be used in discussions about WEC program commitments for 2026.

### WEC Year-end Report/Objectives for 2026

A draft of the year end report was reviewed. Additional comments about WEC's concerns at Big Deep and Little Deep will be added.

### WEC Next Meeting

WEC's December 17 meeting is canceled. The next WEC meeting scheduled for January 7, 2026.

## Public be Heard

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned promptly at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary pro tempore  
Woodstock Environmental Commission

Next scheduled WEC Meeting,  
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:00 PM,  
Comeau Great Room

### Attachment

Timeline New York Energy Storage Roadmap

## Meeting Announcements

**Thursday, December 4, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., Flood Risk, Maps & Requirements: A Primer for Board Members in the Ashokan Reservoir Watershed.** Designed specifically for Town Boards, Planning Boards and Zoning Boards in the Ashokan Reservoir Watershed. This event will be held in-person, December 4, 2025, at the American Legion Hall, located at 28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY 12481. The training is expected to last approximately 2.5 hours.

[Registration for this event is required, sponsored by Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program](#)

**Monday, December 8, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Ulster County Water Quality Coordinating Committee - Partner Meeting,** by Zoom; Environment Conference Room. Water Quality Coordinating Committee Provides a coordinated and collaborative approach to protect and improve the waters of Ulster County and ensuring the resilience of our watershed systems **Members:** UC Dept of the Environment, UC Dept of Health, UC Dept of Public Works, UC Planning Dept, UC Soil and Water Conservation District, UC Environmental Management Council, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County.

**Tuesday, December 9 Webinar, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Anton Seimon on the changing climate of the Hudson Valley** A National Geographic Explorer, Anton Seimon leads research programs on a diverse range of themes in the Earth, atmospheric, and environmental sciences. He holds adjunct faculty positions at Appalachian State University, the University of Maine, and Bard College. Climate scientist Anton Seimon will talk about the realities of climate change across our region, and past historic weather events experienced by the Hudson Valley, including blizzards, windstorms, heat and cold waves, and other severe storms.

[Registration required, sponsored by Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley](#)

**Thursday, December 11, 12-1 pm via Zoom webinar, Land Use Leadership Alliance for Flood Resilience** At this information session, Tiffany Zezula and Jessica Bacher from Pace University's Land Use Law Center will share how local land use policies provide an important set of tools for municipalities to improve flood resilience in their communities, and an upcoming training opportunity for Flood Resilience Network members. In 2026, a cohort of municipalities that are Members of the Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network will have the opportunity to work directly with the Land Use Law Center to participate in a 3-day Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) training. Each municipality will work through the Resilience Implementation and Strategic Enhancements (RISE) Local Assessment Tool, which was developed by FEMA and the US Environmental Protection Agency to help municipalities assess and refine local laws and policies to improve resilience and achieve desired community outcomes.

[Registration required, sponsored by Land Use Leadership Alliance \(LULA\) Training Program](#)

# Woodstock Environmental Commission

## Timeline New York Energy Storage Roadmap

In January 2022, Governor Hochul announced in her State of the State address, the intent to double the state's energy storage target from 3 to 6 gigawatts by 2030. The underlying driver of this nation-leading target was the Climate Act, enacted in 2019 and in effect since 2020, which called for New York to achieve 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% zero-emissions electricity by 2040.

Effective June 20, 2024, the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an 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.

In a June 20, 2024 Press Release, Governor Kathy Hochul announced approval by the PSC of New York's nation-leading 6 gigawatts Energy Storage Roadmap.

The June 20, 2024 PSC order directed the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to submit a draft Implementation Plan to “detail the implementation strategies and program goals” of the bulk energy storage program.

Subsequently, the PSC approved NYSEDA’s Retail and Residential Storage Implementation Plan and its Bulk Storage Implementation Plan on February 14, 2025 and March 20, 2025, respectively.

In a March 20, 2025 Press Release, the Public Service Commission announced approval, with modifications, of the draft Bulk Energy Storage Program Implementation Plan filed by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

In a July 28, 2025 Press Release, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the first (of three) bulk energy storage solicitation by NYSEDA as identified in New York’s Energy Storage Roadmap.

Therefore, the Woodstock Environmental Commission agrees that the programs and recommendations contained within New York’s Energy Storage Roadmap will move the State closer to reaching its climate goals,

The Woodstock Environmental Commission recognizes the above references as official documents defining **The New York Energy Storage Roadmap**.