

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 August 6, 2025

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Susan Paynter called the August 6, 2025 meeting of the Woodstock Environmental Commission to order at 6:00 PM.

WEC Members Present

Stacey Anderson Term: expires 12/31/2025

Laurie Kirby Term: expires 12/31/2025

Joe Otters Term: expires 12/31/2026

Kenneth Panza Term: expires 12/31/2025

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

Arlene Weissman Term: expires 12/31/2025

Guests Present

Anula Curtis, Town Councilwoman, Supervisor Elect

Lauri Osmond, Councilwoman Elect

Julia Blelock, DWSP2 Working Group

George Cross

Vincent Mow, Woodstockers United for Change

Sarah Yanosh

Approval of the Agenda

Because of unexpected conflicts, Marcel Nagele asked to postpone his presentation on the Shady Dump. Marcel's presentation has been rescheduled for the WEC meeting of September 17th.

Agenda, as modified, approved by unanimous consent.

Consideration of Minutes

Minutes for the WEC meeting of July 16, 2025, previously updated and distributed, were approved by unanimous consent.

Correspondence

Received an invitation from the Woodstock Volunteers Day Committee for members of the Environmental Commission to attend the 21st Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day on August 16th on Andy Lee Field. Music and buffet begin at 2:00 PM; food served from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM or until the buffet runs out. RSVP to: info@volunteersday.org

The 30th annual fireworks show, sponsored by the Woodstock Fire Department, is on August 16th, 2025, 9 pm, at Andy Lee Field.

Received a reminder about the 2025 Ulster County Watershed Roundtable, Monday, August 11, 1:30-4:30 pm at the Ulster County Restorative Justice and Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston.

Announcements

At the July 31, 2025 meeting of the Woodstock Town Board, **Laurie Kirby** was appointed to the Woodstock Environmental Commission, term to expire 12/31/25.

At the July 31, 2025 meeting of the Woodstock Town Board, **Arlene Weissman** was appointed to the Woodstock Environmental Commission, term to expire 12/31/25.

At the July 31, 2025 meeting of the Woodstock Town Board, **Susan M. Paynter** was appointed Chair Woodstock Environmental Commission for the year 2025.

Old Business

Arlene Weissman and Julia Blelock, DWSP2 Working Group

On January 31, 2024, Woodstock was selected to participate in the state sponsored Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2.) The Program is a locally led, state-supported program that empowers municipalities to take action to improve and protect their public water sources and surrounding environment. Communities accepted into the program work with technical assistance providers to develop and initiate implementation of their unique Drinking Water Source Protection Program, leading to actionable steps each municipality can take to protect their drinking water sources now and into the future.

Woodstock's Water Working Group, consisting of Julia Blelock, Arlene Weissman, and Councilwoman Laura Ricci met with Department of Health professionals over the past year to identify sources of contamination and develop a plan to protect the quality of the town's water supply. Paige Bogart and Michael Fodgnens of the Department of Health presented the working group's initial findings at the March 11, 2025 Town Board meeting.

The working group established seven priority issues for identified protection areas.

Priority Issue #1	PFAS substances; levels and sources
Priority Issue #2	Residential sources of possible contamination: septic tanks, PFAS, fertilizers and herbicides.
Priority Issue #3	Education and outreach about source water protection
Priority Issue #4	Identified three bulk storage oil tanks in the source water area
Priority Issue #5	Road runoff: salt, herbicides, leaked oil etc.
Priority Issue #6	Future land use and development. Incorporate source water protection into future land use decisions.
Priority Issue #7	Groundwater Evaluation. Capacity of the groundwater aquifer to support development. Calculate the town's water budget.

A copy of the [DWSP2 presentation to the Town Board on March 11, 2025](#) is available on the town's website

A draft report prepared by the DWSP2 working group will soon be submitted for review and approval by the state. Once released, the WEC will have a major role in implementing its conclusions. Included in the report are updated source water aquifer maps, groundwater modeling, possible water contamination and quality issues, and a discussion of protection and management strategies. There was considerable discussion at tonight's WEC meeting about possible partners and community involvement in education about water quality and protection issues.

Stacey Anderson, Cornell Climate Change Education and Engagement Project

All information collected during the disaster preparedness project is available on the Town of Woodstock website. The town's website pages show a list of topics on the left side, one of which is Disaster Preparedness.

The Town of Woodstock, in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Ulster County and the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program, developed an inventory of resources to help prepare for disasters.

The webpage covers a range of topics, from developing a family emergency plan to the multi-faceted relationship between climate change and natural disasters. Information is provided on what to do during and after a disaster, how to access emergency services, and how to start the recovery process.

Although the current website is a good start, it's not designed to be accessed quickly for use during an actual emergency.

Home Page
Search Website
2024 Annual Financial Report
2025 Proposed Budget
Assesment Tax Rolls
Assessment Information
Bear Information!
Boards & Committees
Budgets
Calendars
Catskill Mountain Railroad Presentation
Community Groups
Comprehensive Plan 2018
Courts
Departments
Disaster Preparedness
Drafts and Proposals
Drinking Water Protection Program Presentation
Employee Handbook
Employment Application
Filming/Holding Events
History - Alf Evers Award

Discussed at the WEC meeting was the requirement for an emergency alert system. This need has been investigated and several options identified, but none selected. Woodstock has a telephone-based, phone tree notification system that relies on individuals notifying a limited number of residents. The phone tree has not been updated for a number of years.

The lack of cell phone service in western Woodstock is a challenge for an emergency alert system. Clearly the requirement for an emergency alert system is an open issue.

New Business

Appointment of WEC Vice-Chair

Arlene Weissman was nominated and unanimously approved as WEC Vice-Chair.

Land Conservancy Scarecrow Day

Stacey Anderson and **Arlene Weissman** will table for WEC at the Land Conservancy's September 20th scarecrow day event.

Big Deep and Little Deep

Susan Paytner and Arlene Weissman inspected conditions at Little Deep and Joe Otters examined Big Deep. Big Deep and Little Deep are popular Woodstock swimming areas on the Sawkill that are heavily used during summer months. At one time, these sites were known and used only by locals, but with the explosion of the internet, the sites have become popular destinations for visitors. A quick Google search returns at least a dozen pages with references to big and little deep. Anyone with an iPhone can quickly find these previously hidden gems.

An obvious problem is parking. A count at Little Deep showed 62 cars in the parking lot and parked along the Zena-Sawkill Rd. The small parking area at Big Deep overflows, resulting in cars parked along State Rt. 212.

Restroom facilities are unavailable for the large number of persons using these sites.

There's evidence of fires without proper fire pits or control. Burnt wood and charcoal were found dumped in forested areas. There are no trash cans and no signs instructing to take your trash home with you.

Few visitors with dogs are using a leash.

There have been reports of large groups, loud music, with hibachi and charcoal grills, using the sites.



Parking at Big Deep

Big Deep, Little Deep Brainstorming

WEC Chair Susan Paytner called for brainstorming, a creative problem-solving technique when a group generates numerous ideas, often in a short period, without immediate criticism or judgment. The goal is to explore a wide range of possibilities and foster innovation.

Parking

- Require residential parking stickers
- Charge for parking, collect fees
- Parking attendant i.e like at the Rock City Rd parking lot

Signage and/or info kiosk

- Post usage guidelines, people need to know the rules
- Restrictions on camping and fires
- Leash law for dogs
- Trash – If you bring it in, bring it out
- Describe history of the area
- Warning about sewer treatment plant discharge

Monitoring Usage of the Sites

- Hire part time employees/student interns
- A Woodstock Parks & Recreation Department

Brainstorming requires the generation of ideas without immediate consideration of the idea's practicability or cost – it's a process for rapidly generating ideas for future consideration.

Town Councilwoman Anula Courtis suggested the chairs of the WEC, Complete Streets, CSAC, and other committees meet with representatives of the town board to develop an overall management plan, including Big Deep and Little Deep, for the town's environmental sensitive areas.

Public be Heard

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned promptly at 7:00 pm.

Cancelled, the WEC scheduled meeting of August 20.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Erin Moran has asked to update the commission on Climate Smart.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth S. Panza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary pro tempore
Woodstock Environmental Commission