

**GREEN COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry Cheney, Chair
Leigh J. Benton, Kevindaryan Lujan, Laurie R. Tautel,
David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
James D. O'Donnell, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Kate Schmidt, Planner, Planning Department
Kelly Morris, Planner, Planning Department

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 2:20 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Ms. Schmidt addressed the committee with the first agenda item regarding Solar on Landfill-Prospective Project. She stated there is an opportunity for EPA to provide a free assessment.

Mr. Cheney clarified that this is EPA's checklist.

Ms. Schmidt stated that is correct.

Mr. Lujan asked if they will need to fulfill the checklist before they invite the EPA or can they just be invited.

Ms. Schmidt replied the checklist will help them before they are invited.

Mr. Cheney clarified that the county must complete the checklist

Ms. Schmidt stated that is correct.

Mr. Lujan commented that they spoke about this checklist about three to four months ago and had asked that Mr. Hammond address the committee about it.

Mr. Cheney stated that he accepts the responsibility of that because he has not contacted him and will ask him to come to the next committee meeting in August since July's meeting will be cancelled.

Ms. Tautel asked if the project they are considering for the landfill will be built and owned by the county or by another corporation.

Mr. Benton and Ms. Schmidt replied that anything is possible.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if Ulster County's solar landfill is up and running.

Ms. Schmidt replied yes, she believes it is.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if Dutchess County is operating.

Ms. Schmidt replied that she cannot speak to that but does know that Rockland County has been operating for years.

The next agenda item was Climate Smart Community Certification-Update on activities and certification renewal which included Climate Adaptation Plan and Other Actions.

Mr. Church stated that Orange County is the first county to be certified and have commissioned the Benjamin Center which Ms. Morris is overseeing this project.

Ms. Morris reiterated that K.T. Tobin who attended the committee meeting last month will have a draft report to present later this summer.

Mr. Church explained that there are additional activities the county can pursue but the certification needs to be renewed before that can be done.

Ms. Schmidt stated that there are five years from the recertification date to reevaluate past credits, update them and perhaps demonstrate proof or evidence. The process will begin in January so she can submit it for April 22, 2019.

The committee moved on to discuss the use of plastic bags in Orange County and how to eliminate them.

Mrs. Reed informed the committee that there was a local law passed several years ago regarding the collection of recycled plastic bags in the county.

Mr. Church discussed the next agenda item, Clean Energy Community Certification Activities- SolSmart Program and EV Charging Stations. He stated that climate smart is an element of Clean Energy Communities as well as an action by doing climate smart activities.

Mr. Cheney asked if the Clean Energy Community helps with getting grants for the county.

Mr. Church replied they both do to some degree. He stated that before they discuss SolSmart, he would like to discuss the EV Charging Stations. The county successfully received two grants for charging stations at the SUNY O.C.C.C. campuses. He reiterated that SUNY will buy the equipment, the county will reimburse them and then the State will reimburse the county. SUNY has been in contact with the N.Y. Power Authority so the equipment should be on order any day and the goal is to get the stations installed and functional before the fall semester begins. He added that they have always advocated that the Orange County Government Center would be a perfect place to install charging stations but the plans became minimized.

Ms. Tautel asked if they have considered putting charging stations in any of the county-owned park areas and parking lots.

Mr. Cheney replied they would have to look at what properties there are and where it makes sense to install them.

Ms. Tautel commented that it would make sense to put stations at the Government Center as well as the county parks being there are a lot of people who use electric vehicles.

Ms. Schmidt stated that the Planning Department has put a lot of thought into the maps and where to install charging stations and will continue to review them.

Mr. Church pointed out that there will be new charging stations at the Park and Ride off Exit 131.

Mr. Cheney asked whether the intent of the charging stations at the Park and Ride at Exit 131 was to accommodate commuters or people that want to drive there and charge up.

Mr. Church replied the intent is most likely for just charging even though there are a lot of commuters.

Mrs. Reed asked that everyone be aware of where the charging stations are installed because when they are put near county facilities, it may be subject to collective bargaining agreement negotiations because you are conveying a benefit to some employees but not to all. If they were installed here, they would have to be offered at fair market value.

The committee briefly discussed having electric fleet vehicles within the county and how technology has changed.

The next topic was the SolSmart Program.

Ms. Schmidt stated there was another award put out by the Department of Energy to motivate municipalities to help solar in their communities. One of the elements of the Clean Energy Community as well as the Climate Smart Community was uniforming their solar permit. She added that the county was awarded gold level.

The next agenda item was Community Preservation Act – Town of Chester and others may join Warwick.

Mr. Church distributed a summary (see original minutes) and explained that the Community Preservation Act was authorized by New York State for municipalities to finance open space protection. Warwick and Red Hook are the only Hudson Valley towns that received authorization. It takes a Home Rule request to go to the State Legislature to get authorization and then there are a series of steps. Several years ago, there was a time when Orange County was going to do this, but it was unable to be done. He stated that the Town of Chester recently reached out to the Planning Department regarding this and they have a local law as well as a draft plan to follow through since it has renewed interest county-wide.

The last agenda item was Other New Activities (brainstorming) which included Potential Green Office Practices, Green Business Challenge and WaterSense Program (USEPA).

Mr. Cheney addressed the WaterSense Program by stating that he and Mr. Church attended the Earth and Water Festival and were introduced to a lady from EPA who oversees this program. She was very interested in speaking with the Legislature. The Green Committee would be the best venue to discuss this but at a county level, he is unsure of what can be done. He asked that

everyone take time to review the handout provided (see original minutes) as well as look on the website before a presentation is made at the August committee meeting.

Regarding Potential Green Office Practices, Ms. Schmidt stated that she will put together some information and send it to the committee members. A few things that can be done in the office is shut off air conditioning, shut off computers, lights, use recycled materials and green cleaning products. She offered to call the Department of General Services to speak about the cleaning people and what is used. Next, was the Green Business Challenge. The program has been very successful in Westchester County for the past ten years. Ulster County will begin the program next Wednesday and if anyone is interested, it can be further discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.