

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Environmental and Consumer Affairs Committee

DATE: November 19, 2001

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Wilkins and Legislators Feldmann, Magarelli, Meyer, Moone, Tantillo and Wadnola

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Dunn

OTHERS ATTENDING: Rick Fritschler, Chairman of EMC, Marie Ellenbogen, EMC Program Assistant, Jacob Wedemeyer and Dixon Onderdonk - EMC Staff, Jonathan VanVlack, Consumer Affairs Director, Craig Artist and Andrew Kovacs, (two representatives from Lawn Doctor) Brother John and Bob Forster - Federated Sportsmen and Elizabeth Askue

Chairman Wilkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL:

Jacob Wedemeyer, EMC Staff Member, gave a report on his activities for water quality testing in the Esopus Creek, working with volunteer students from Kingston H.S.; he is also doing mapping for the Hurley Open Space Committee.

Marie Ellenbogen, EMC Staff Member, gave her report on trail work on the Ulster Landing Park and other projects (fence building, brush clearing, etc.)

Mr. Fritschler gave a report on the new power equipment now being used in various projects AND gave an update on his progress with the Voluntary Neighbor Notification Registry. He handed out a draft copy of the policy for Pesticide Application Volunteer Neighbor Notification (copy attached). He mentioned how the County Attorney reviewed the draft and everything was acceptable. Discussion followed making minor

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
PAGE 2
NOVEMBER 19, 2001

changes to this draft and it will be resubmitted to the County Attorney for one last review before it is adopted as policy.

Legislator Magarelli said he still was not comfortable with this policy and its process only gives an illusion of safety. He asked that the Committee wait until everything was perfectly clear and in place. He felt this should be presented before the entire Legislative Body.

Legislator Wadnola added that first, this process does not have to go before the Legislators for a vote as it is a departmental policy and this Body does not get involved with that and second, by trying this avenue would only slow the process of Neighbor Notification even further. He said the time is right to act on this now.

Legislator Wilkins pointed out that if the Committee waits any longer it might not be until April before the new Committee picks up where it left off on the Neighbor Notification project. He said the policy may not be perfect right now but if they wait until it is, this will never get off the ground. Anything new is going to have some flaws. He suggested they go forward and perfect it along the way. "We owe it to the Cancer Coalition and Lawn Care Associates to get this going."

Legislator Moone motioned, seconded by Legislator Feldmann to forward all amendments to the County Attorney and pending his approval, this will be implemented and EMC continues to monitor the progress. All voted in favor except Legislator Magarelli.

Rick Fritschler made a presentation on the possibility of the County having a research vehicle for water quality testing and a concept for obtaining a boat. He was asked to do a little more research on what the County's liability would be, but otherwise this venue was met with positive reaction from all Legislators present.

CONSUMER FRAUD BUREAU, D.A.

Jonathan VanVlack, Consumer Affairs Director, passed out reprints from NACCA News with an article on Ulster County's Check Out Accuracy Law. He reported an affirmative reaction nationally and internationally. He also handed out a reprint from the newspaper on the Kingston Adult Residence for Seniors (recently being scrutinized for theft from at least 19 residents). He briefly reported on the 2002 budget for his department and concluded with a discussion on the Supreme Court case regarding credit card identity theft.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
PAGE 3
NOVEMBER 19, 2001

FEDERATED SPORTSMEN

Bob Forster, President of U.C. Federated Sportsmen, reported on the hunting season so far. He also mentioned the possibility of obtaining baby white rabbits to raise.

Brother John reported on the deplorable conditions of the Schoharie Creek. He said mud-like substance is being pumped out and he would be monitoring this situation to report back at a later date.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Motion to adjourn made by Legislator Feldmann and seconded by Legislator Tantillo.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:00 PM