



SCHENECTADY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday August 29th, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Google Meet

Meeting Information:

SCEAC Meeting
Tuesday August 29th • 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Please email Heather Ipsen (ipsenh93@gmail.com) or Portia Zwicker (zwickerp@gmail.com) with any questions.



SCEAC Minutes

August 29th 2023

Substantive/Topical Meeting Agenda

- I. **Privilege of the Floor** (Guests)
 - Ashok Ramasubramanian discussed the pesticide policy update (see notes below).
- II. **Agenda Additions or Modifications** (Council Members)
- III. **Project, Standing Committee, Commission and Liaison Reports**
 - A. Glenville Wolf Hollow Project - Alex Lykins
 - still acquiring land... This will be the first new preserve in the county since the 80s!
 - B. CSC Task Force Updates - Alec Lykins
 - The county submitted an application to the DEC. They purposely overshoot on points in hopes of getting silver, but haven't heard back from the DEC yet.
 - This is an ongoing process, and once they receive certification they will continue this great work.
 - C. Pesticide Policy Update - Alex Lykins
 - Do we know of a list of acceptable pesticide products?
 - And/or should we create a waiver process for when applying a pesticide is necessary?
 - SCEAC could be the reviewing body for these requests (perhaps a sub-committee)
 - **Next step: put the [resolution](#) on the floor for SCEAC to pass for the next meeting**
 - D. Follow up on [Skip the Stuff \(STS\)](#) Campaign - Portia Zwicker
 - Should it be a law or a resolution? Local laws are generally brought forth by Rich and Sarah Mae, so they would need to be on board with this.
 - We would need to drum up local support (esp. business owners & local organizations) for this law.
 - A resolution could bring better awareness to the issue to start (and would be a statement of SCEACs position on the issue)
 - Who would enforce it? In Albany it's the DOH. The head of Schenectady DOH is an ex-officio member, so we could reach out to see the level of support.
 - **Next steps: draft STS resolution; contact Schenectady head of DOH**

Administrative Agenda

- I. **Secretary's Report** 2 Minutes
- II. **Treasurer's Report** 2 Minutes
 - A. We can modify our budget to hire and retain consultants if the need arises.
 - B. If we want to ask for more than our usual \$900, we can; however, we should select a Treasurer to keep track of our finances.



III. Executive Committee

A. Recruitment Effort

- An ongoing effort. If you know of anyone interested, please ask them to attend a meeting!

B. Orientation to SCEAC Schedule

- Alex is checking with Charlie, Sarah, and Rich for convenient times
- then he will send a Doodle poll to select final date

C. Next projects?

- Alexis shared that Niskayuan is working on a Conservation Easement. They are in the preliminary stages of research, but the hope is to create a game plan for getting residents tax benefits.

VII. Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

A. Orientation to SCEAC

3 Minutes

- See above discussion

B. Others?

- **Climate March Sept 17th - boat's leaving from Union College! [Eventbrite tickets.](#)**

XI. Adjourn

Next meeting 9/26 at 5pm via Google Meet