

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

July 14, 2022 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: July 15, 2022

Approved: August 4, 2022

Members: John Botelho, Richard Milne (via telephone), Matthew O'Connor, Michael Yudelson, Kathryn Walker, Helen Frank

Absent: Sean Delehanty, Sue Hughes-Smith, Mike Garland, Leah Wirley, Lola D'Ascentiis

Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Yasmin Guevara, Pat Gooch, Piper VanKerkhove

Guests: Molly Guadoso, Lyrica Yanaway, Loretta Morrell, Elizabeth Pixley

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements (Co-Chair O'Connor)

1. Meeting called to order at 3:35 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

1. Minutes from the June 2, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Kate Walker; seconded by Matt O'Connor.

Legislative Update (Legislator Yudelson):

1. July 14th marks the 24th meeting of the committee. Thanks to all who have been on since the beginning, including students, County staff and consultants for all of your efforts. This is truly a team effort.
2. Special recognition to the students: their original activism was what spurred the County to create this committee.
3. The legislation which created the committee states that committee members' terms will end when the report is complete and approved. Members are asked to contact one of the chairs if they are interested in continuing for Phase 2. The Chairs will follow up with the Legislature and County Attorney regarding vacancies.
4. The Legislature has changed since the committee was created, and the County Attorney will be contacted to confirm the committee status and the wording of the original resolution.
5. Mike thanked his fellow County Legislators, members of the committee past and present: Karla Boyce, Fred Ancello, Sean Delehanty, Sue Hughes-Smith, and Richard Milne for their participation in and support of the process.

Climate Action Plan Update (Clem Chung / Matthew O'Connor):

1. Clem Chung thanked the committee for their hard work, diligence, passion and interest from the beginning, saying the excellent outcome was a product of the extended timeframe.
2. Phase 1 enables the County to move forward with the Phase 2 County-Wide plan. It is expected that the County will begin work on Phase 2 as soon as the approval for Phase 1 is granted by the County Legislature. It is hoped that Phase 2 will be complete by the end of 2023.
3. Funding for Phase 2 has been included in the 2023 DES Operating Budget, and the current contract with Bergmann runs through the completion of Phase 2.
4. Noting a quorum existed among voting members, Chair O'Connor moved that the Climate Action Committee approve Phase 1 of the Monroe County Climate Action Plan as submitted to the Committee on July 14, 2022, and authorize the Department of Environmental Services to submit the Plan to the County Legislature for approval and adoption.

Roll call vote of authorized voting members:

Sean Delehanty – Absent

John Botelho – Yes

Richard Milne (via telephone) – Yes

Matthew O'Connor – Yes

Michael Yudelson – Yes

Sue Hughes-Smith – Absent (But indicated to Chair O'Connor prior to the meeting that her vote would be Yes if present)

Kathryn Walker – Yes

6. Clem was authorized by the Chairs to draft and sign a letter on their behalf, addressed to the President of the Legislature submitting Phase 1 for adoption on behalf of the Committee. The President and the sponsoring legislators will then submit the referral for introduction at the August meeting. The referral will then have to pass through the committee(s) cycle in August, prior to the September meeting. It is hoped that Phase 1 will be adopted by the Legislature at the September meeting. Legislators on the Committee asked to review the referral prior to submission.
7. Committee members are asked to submit thoughts, ideas and expectations for Phase 2 to Clem, Mike Garland or any of the Chairpersons prior to the August meeting for discussion.
8. The August meeting will be dedicated to next steps, expectations, resources, and identifying other County groups (such as Planning) that could be used as resources for Phase 2.

Public Forum:

1. Kate Walker mentioned that the Renew Fund, a local program that helps low-income earners to make their homes more energy efficient, received a \$50,000 grant from the New York State Senate.
2. Kate also mentioned there were two speakers at the Monroe County Legislature Meeting on Tuesday, July 12 in support of dedicated food composting in the county.
3. Matt O'Connor asked if press events would be planned and held when Phase 1 is adopted. Clem answered that would be a decision of the Legislature, the County Executive, and County Communications.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 3:30 **in-person** at the Monroe County Fleet Center Building 1 Conference Room. Changes or updates to the meeting venue will be communicated to the committee via email.

Motion to adjourn by Matt O'Connor; second by Kate Walker. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.