

# Environment & Health

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Ruth Walter

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.  
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601  
[www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)

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Tuesday, October 5, 2021

1:00 PM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting joint with the Committees on Intergovernmental Services and Planning, Economic Development & Energy

*The County Board will meet pursuant to Chapter 417 of New York State Laws of 2021, allowing public bodies to meet and take action without permitting in-person public access to meetings and authorizes such meetings and public hearings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>*

*With a quorum present, Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.*

*Others in Attendance: Y. Valencia, A. Singh, M. Montalto*

*Remote: Legislators Cunzio, Woodson-Samules, Peter McCartt*

**Present:** Committee Chair Walter, Legislator Boykin and Legislator Shimsky

**Remote:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Committee Vice-Chair Covill and Legislator Parker

### MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, September 20, 2021 10:00 AM

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Monday, September 20, 2021 1:00 PM

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:00 PM

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Monday, September 27, 2021 10:00 AM

On motion of Legislator Boykin, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### 1. [2021-413](#) RES-Declaration Climate Emergency Resolution

A RESOLUTION forwarded by County Executive George Latimer urging federal, state and local government to adopt and implement Declaration of Climate Emergency.

**Submitted by COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH, INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES AND PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY**

Guest:

Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability  
Office of the County Executive

*Chair Walter introduced Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability, he thanked the committee for the invitation to address this resolution. Mr. McCartt spoke on the importance of the climate emergency resolution, especially in this climate emergency, and the importance of Westchester getting behind this. Legislator Parker concurred and noted the need to update the legislation to reflect Governor Hochul being in office, before thanking Mr. McCartt for his work on the Climate Crisis Task Force. Legislator Shimsky asked if this should also be sent to our Congressional Delegation, before Vice-Chair Barr added it should be sent to additional stakeholder as well. Legislator Barr raised the issue of the County needing to not only to talk on climate change, but walk the walk before a discussion ensued on ways the Board of Legislators and County Government as a whole could make internal adjustments to promote environmentally friendly practices. Mr. McCartt agreed and said additional signage, among other things could be explored as they work toward this, including promoting the fact that Westchester County is a bronze climate smart community. Legislator Shimsky agreed that these ideas should be explored, but only as part of a larger initiative including switching to all LED lights, weatherizing buildings, and current initiatives like the electric vehicles in the County fleet. Legislator Boykin concurred and clarified about the origin of some Styrofoam plates, which resulted in a discussion about the need for better enforcement. Chair Parker stated that there was some confusion about who had enforcement authority on certain issues and reiterated the importance of this message coming from the top. Chair Walter asked the committee members if expounding on the loss of life and damages to communities in Westchester would make the resolution stronger and a consensus was reached that it would. Melanie Montalto, Legislative Director, clarified the procedure for amending the legislation and it was agreed that the changes would be made and brought before the committees next week.*

This RESOLUTION was tabled

## II. OTHER BUSINESS

## III. RECEIVE & FILE

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 1:36 PM.