

Environment, Energy & Climate

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft



Committee Chair: David Imamura

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

2:30 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Joint w/ HSHRE and PWT

With a quorum present, Chair Imamura called the meeting to order at 2:45 PM

Others in Attendance: Others in Attendance: Guests: Ellen Weingarten BOL: Legislator Symra Brandon (Remote), Legislator James Nolan, Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Damon Maher, Legislative Director Marcello Figureoa, Committee Coordinator Jill Axelrod

Present: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

MINUTES APPROVAL

April 4th, 2023 10:00 AM Minutes

May 30th, 2023 2:30 PM Minutes

June 12th, 2023 10:00 AM Minutes

June 20th, 2023 10:00 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Parker, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[ACT-2023-195](#) **ACT-Equity in Environmental Legislation Act**

Guests:

Peter McCartt, Director, Department of Energy Conservation and Sustainability
Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, County Attorney's Office
Senior Assistant County Attorney Shawna MacLeod, County Attorney's Office

Peter McCartt spoke about the legislation saying that it is common sense policy of equal treatment. He emphasized the need to consider disadvantaged communities when were creating policies. Stacy Dolgin-Kmetz restated its contents and said that it basically talks about how important equal treatment in the development and enforcement of environmental laws and policies in Westchester County.

Legislator Parker referenced a meeting held with Raya Salter of the Environmental Justice Center and discussed the changes suggested by Raya which relates to pollution. There was continued discussion where issues were raised by Legislators Erika Pierce and Jewel Williams-Johnson.

After some considerations regarding language, enforcement and other issues, there was a consensus to vote for the following amendments: A change from the word equal to be replaced with equitable in all instances throughout the legislation. A request for the committee report line that reads "this is a trend that can be reversed if equal treatment is applied to all communities" to be changed to "this is a trend that can be reversed if equal treatment is applied to all communities in combination with a focus on mitigating past environmental harms in marginalized communities." with a vote of the following:

Motioned by Legislator Imamura and 2nd by Legislator Nancy Barr with a vote of all in favor for those present.

The committee agreed for additional changes to be made and a vote to be taken up at a later time.

[ACT-2023-186](#) **ACT-Renewable Energy Database Act**

Guests:

Peter McCartt, Director, Department of Energy Conservation and Sustainability
Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, County Attorney's Office
Senior Assistant County Attorney Shawna MacLeod, County Attorney's Office
Ellen Weingarten, County Executive Office

Mr. McCartt and Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz explained that this act establishes a database for municipalities in the County who are interested in citing renewable energy systems on available land within their municipalities. Information will come from the municipalities and will be given to the County. The County intends that they will work with power companies such as ConEd and NYSEG for informational purposes. Mr. McCartt stated this project is a long time in the making and it will help to organize energy sources not just for municipalities but for businesses, schools and other institutions looking for information as it will be made publicly available.

Legislator Pierce asked exactly how the process will work. Mr. McCartt explained that it will be used with the county's GIS mapping system which can help provide informational guidance on price, location and more. The bigger piece will be the data gathering from the municipalities.

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson asked if this project is based on other counties or jurisdictions that has done this before. Mr. McCartt stated that to his knowledge Scenic Hudson has done something like this before but no other surrounding municipalities. Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz stated that this legislation is modeled after a New York State Law that did not make it out of committee.

On motion of Legislator Parker, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

[2023-357](#) CLERK OF THE BOARD - Reinstate Parcel into Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Parker, the above item was received, filed, and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Parker, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 3:27 PM by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

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