



Planning, Economic Development & Energy

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Catherine Parker

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

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with the Committees on Environment and Health, Planning Economic Development and 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 Parker called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Others in attendance: BOL - Legs. Kitley Covill, Ruth Walter, MaryJane Shimsky. BOL Staff: Melanie Montalto, Yolanda Valencia, Anand Singh

MINUTES APPROVAL

September 21, 2021 at 11:00AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Barr, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

September 21, 2021 at 1:00PM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Barr, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[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.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: 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

Legislator Walter, Chair of the Environment and Health Committee introduced Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability spoke on the importance of the climate emergency resolution, especially in this climate emergency, and the importance of

Westchester getting behind this. Chair 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 stakeholders as well. She also highlighted the need of the County to stay committed to this endeavor 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 the use of LED lights, weatherizing buildings, and existing initiatives like the use of electric vehicles in the County fleet. Legislator Boykin concurred and a discussion about the need for better enforcement throughout the County ensued. 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. Legislator 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 made a clarification about the procedural changes needed to amend the legislation. Legislator Borgia stated that this needs to be passed next week and it was agreed that the changes would be made and brought before the committees.

This RESOLUTION was tabled

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Walter, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 1:36 PM.