

Parks & Environment BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: David Tubiolo

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

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

1:00 PM

Committee Room

Joint with PWT

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. *With a quorum present, Chair Tubiolo called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.*

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Vincent Kopicki, Lou Vetrone, Melissa Rotini, Karen Pasquale; BOL: Emiljana Ulaj, Jewel Williams Johnson, Catherine Parker, Shanae Williams, James Silverberg, Adrienne Kaye, Lisa Hochman, Dayana Gomez, Marcello Figueroa, Warren Watson

Present: Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

MINUTES APPROVAL

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 11:30 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 11:00 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Monday, July 29, 2024 at 1:00 PM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Waste Reduction Study

Guests: Department of Environmental Facilities

Commissioner Vincent Kopicki

First Deputy Commissioner Lou Vetrone

Assistant Director of Operations Karen Pasquale

The waste reduction study was a request from the Board of Legislators as part of a previous budget process. This study is important because waste makes up about 12% of New York State's annual greenhouse gas emissions, making it the fourth largest contributor. The State's goal as outlined in the New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was to reduce landfill and combustion waste by 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. DEF reported that Westchester County has been very successful in reducing waste and in the past 20 years had a reduction by 29% of residential waste and annually reaches a recycling rate of at least 50%. In 2024, New York State released a ten-year solid waste management plan with an ambitious goal to reach 85% recycling rate by the year 2050.

The countywide study must include zero-waste principles, best practices, evaluation of implementation of each initiative, evaluation of environmental impacts of each initiatives and identifying different strategies that can be implemented on a county level, among other scopes of work, all of which must ensure the health and wellness of the public. After opening up the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) selected Barton Loguidice as the consultant for this study. They have vast experience putting together solid waste management plans and zero-waste analysis's. There will be a public input component to this study, with a survey currently available on their website. The Board of Legislators expressed an interest in sharing both the survey and the public input session info, once it is available. The goal is to create a guide for the County that simultaneously meets the State's goals. The timeline of completion may vary since several offices and departments will be working together on this study, however, they anticipate its completion to be in April of 2025. DEF and Director of Energy and Sustainability Pete McCartt will also be meeting with Municipal Recycling Officials in February, and his office will then do further outreach to sustainability groups. Although the department has not received the final 2024 breakdown of the County's waste and recycling, the latest study estimated that residential food waste was about 23%, and that fluctuates from year-to-year. (DEF anticipates receiving this report later this spring.) DEF has a second study to help site a large compost site in the County. Such a site should help them increase curbside collection with the ability to handle 10,000 tons of food scraps and 20,000 tons of yard waste. This study is expected to be completed by April 2025 as well. The consultant must comply with the RFP component of making the public's health and safety a priority.

Regarding concerns about how recycling is currently being handled, DEF has a publicly accessible form on their website where residents can provide tips and complaints anonymously which helps the department with additional information gathering.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Nolan, the Committee adjourned at 1:53 PM. by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels