



SCHENECTADY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Webex & Schenectady Public Library

<https://schenectadycounty-mks.my.webex.com/schenectadycounty-mks.my/j.php?MTID=m8fdab3f55cec6a8181b514618981613f>

SCEAC Agenda

February 26, 2025

In attendance: Heather Ipsen, Portia Zwicker, Donna Esposito, Betsy Henry, Nick Klemczak, Charlie Davidson, Alex Llykins, Ashok Ramasubram, Jack Hagerty, Jasenya McCauley, Joe P., Josh Johnson

Absent: Kathy Fisher, Amelia Keese, Bob Titus, Ryan Szepek, Sharon Carter, Shain Hogan, Chelsea Rattner

Substantive/Topical Meeting Agenda

- I. Privilege of the Floor (Guests)** 10 minutes
 - A. Betsy Henry (Region 4 [ReLeaf](#) Committee and [ReTree Schenectady](#)):
Arbor Day and Tree Grants
 - Quick Start Grant available: Small grant up to \$1000 due March 4th
 - Arbor Day is April 25th
 - [Community Reforestation Grant](#) for urban areas due March 12th
 - Betsy says Schenectady County isn't quite ready for a grant of this size, but they would like to start the conversation for the county to consider; Charlie says this fits well with County interests
 - Tree Power Grant from NYPA: NYPA will match all purchased trees with a specific focus on Disadvantaged Communities, where they'll match two trees for every one purchased
 - Betsy has been leading ReTree Schenectady for 30 years and is looking for new leadership and member involvement
- II. Agenda Additions or Modifications (Council Members)** 2 minutes
- III. Approval of last meeting's minutes**
 - Approved
- IV. Project, Standing Committee, Commission, and Liaison Reports**
 - A. CSC Task Force Updates - Charlie Davidson 5 minutes
 - Fleet manager is working on getting electric vehicle quote; Charlie is following up
 - B. Pesticide subcommittee meeting - Charlie Davidson 5 minutes
 - Donna, Ashok and Charlie met with the Director of Facilities who had concerns about grass dying or becoming messy with lack of pesticides; committee members provided evidence showing that is not the case
 - The committee proposed lawn signs to educate and keep the public informed about pesticide use
 - Donna wants to know what the cost savings is for foregoing pesticides, can we post that information on the site? It would be a valuable tool in support of the committee's efforts
 - Ashok wants to put something on the website about the committee's work including his pesticide video and wants to talk about creating the language for the website. Charlie will take care of that and Ashok will assist
 - C. Natural Resources Inventory - Nick Klemczak 5 minutes
 - Ashok and Nick have been working on it, setting a date to meet with JN Land Trust Services to help prioritize county properties

- They are also looking into grant opportunities via climate smart communities
 - D. Restaurant Sustainability - Portia Zwicker/Heather Ipsen 2 minutes
- Creating a placard with QR code that leads to Discover Schenectady web page for this program where restaurants can register to be a part of the program
 - E. Textile waste collection program - Jasenya McCauley 5 minutes
- Preliminary outreach starting for potential stakeholders
 - F. Community Reuse Center - Jasenya McCauley 5 minutes
- Next community meeting is April 29th via Zoom at 7pm

Administrative Agenda

- I. **Treasurer's Report** 5 minutes

- II. **Executive Committee**
 - A. State of the Environment (larger scope) and Annual Report (county events) 5 minutes
 - The Annual Report due next month, Portia is working on it; State of the Environment is due in July
 - B. Attendance policy
 - Heather and Portia are working with Alex to put together an attendance policy; currently working on getting feedback; need to assure quorum at meetings
 - Members can miss 2 meetings without notifying [i.e. 48 hours ahead of time], but the third will lead to a meeting to discuss their position on the council
 - The goal is to start utilizing check-ins and good communication among leaders and members
 - Portia will send out the policy and we can go over it next meeting
 - C. Results of Rotterdam Community Needs Assessment & Potential collaboration with SCEAC 5 minutes
 - In collaboration with Siena, gathered information from more than 200 rotterdam residents; came back with pedestrian safety and sidewalk concerns which do cross into SCEAC duty
 - Rotterdam Community Center is interested in collaborating with SCEAC; may be open to hosting Drip Drop and Pick a Fit event in the future
 - D. Northern Border Regional Council Grant Opportunity 5 minutes
 - [More information here](#)
 - E. Rotterdam Town Board
 - Alex will be running for Rotterdam Town Board
 - F. New SCEAC general email: SCEAC@schenectadycountyny.gov 1 minute
 - Charlie will have access to this email address and will forward emails to Heather and Portia
 - G. Union College liaison position 5 minutes
 - Amelia will be leaving, so we'll need to find a new liaison
- III. **Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest**
 - [Zero Waste Events Workshop Online](#), March 5, 2025 10 am - 12:30 pm, PST

- Next meeting: Mar 26th

XI. Adjourn