

TOMPKINS COUNTY ENERGY TASK FORCE
Friday, Oct. 18, 2019
Human Services Building, 320 W. State/MLK JR, Ithaca, NY 14850
Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Member		Staff	
Sharon Anderson	E	Tim Mount	P	Katie Borgella	P
Martha Armstrong	P	Martha Robertson	E	Darby Kiley	P
Fernando de Aragón	P	Brice Smith	A	Kristin McCarthy	P
Brian Eden	P	Jennifer Tavares	P		
Todd Fox	P	Irene Weiser	P		
Nick Goldsmith	E	Gordon Woodcock	A		
Bob Howarth	P	Sarah Zemanick	P		

Guests: Peter Bardaglio, Terry Carroll, Deborah Dawson, Sara Hess, Anna Kelles

Welcome: Vice Chair Sarah Zemanick welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members invited guests to sit at the main table with them.

Comments from the Public: Round 1 – Terry Carroll shared that the State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Transportation, along with NYSEDA, are hosting a public meeting on climate and transportation at The Space @ Greenstar on November 7. The goal is to seek input on New York’s potential involvement in a regional initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. More information can be found on the initiative website: <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/>

Agenda Review/Changes – None

Approval of September 20, 2019 minutes – A motion was made by Irene Weiser, and seconded by Bob Howarth, to approve the draft September 2019 Energy Task Force meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Energy Task Force recommendations for future – Policy Committee

Attendees of the 10/8 Policy Committee meeting provided an overview to the group on the two ETF 2.0 proposals (Versions 1 and 2) included in the agenda packet. Discussion was wide-ranging and covered a variety of issues, including explaining the process involved in developing these two options; revamping legislative advisory board system in general; choosing the most effective institutional structure (e.g. for example, the Sullivan County Sustainability Office reports to that County’s Administrator and we could learn more about its creation and operation); and determining the scope of the resolution to create ETF 2.0, such as keeping it broad so as not to limit portfolio but focus on specific items moving forward.

Frustration was expressed over finding the proper mechanism to keep the business community engaged while respecting their limited time. Members emphasized the importance of including groups such as commercial developers and business property owners for their feasibility expertise. One suggestion offered was to create topic-specific agendas for future ETF 2.0 meetings and to target outreach to particular meetings accordingly by stakeholder group (e.g. business owners, commercial developers, homeowners, academia, environmental justice advocates).

While no formal action was taken, a consensus was reached among ETF members to move forward with developing the bones of Version 2 of ETF 2.0. The Policy Committee was tasked with continuing this work and will meet next on November 12. It will take feedback and commentary from today's meeting into consideration.

Presentation: GO ITHACA Transportation Demand Management Pilot – Gary Ferguson & Lauren Gabuzzi

Gary Ferguson and Lauren Gabuzzi of the Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA) introduced the group to GO ITHACA, a new transportation demand management program being piloted by DIA. The program includes a commuter benefit program, which DIA will promote to downtown employers, including Tompkins County, over the next few months. More info can be found on the GO ITHACA website (<https://www.goithaca.org/>), and Gary and Lauren's presentation is available on the ETF webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/committees-etf>.

Member Announcements/Comments from Public Round 2

- The NYSERDA Sustainable Energy Expo-Syracuse takes places October 28.
- Southern Tier 8 is hosting "Energy Solutions for Economic Success" on October 24.

Adjournment – Vice Chair Sarah Zemanick adjourned meeting at 10:34 am.