



Committee on Environment & Health

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

1:00 PM

Committee Chair: Nancy Barr

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Nancy Barr	Chair	Present	
Catherine Borgia	D9 Legislator	Absent	
Kitley Covill	D2 Legislator	Present	
Catherine Parker	D7 Legislator	Present	
MaryJane Shimsky	D12 Legislator (Majority Leader)	Present	
Ruth Walter	D15 Legislator	Present	

GUESTS: COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Dr. Sherlita Amler CE: Peter McCartt BOL: Lisa Hochmann, Brandon Lloyd OTHER: Ellen Weinenger

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Organizational meeting for the 2020-21 term.

- Set a meeting quorum

Chairwoman Barr noted that since the committee consists of six people, a setting a meeting quorum of two would make it easier to meet in the event that several legislators are absent. On a motion from Legislator Walter and seconded by Legislator Parker this item was approved with a vote of 4-0.

- Set a voting quorum

On a motion from Chairman Boykin and seconded by Legislator Parker, this item was approved with a vote of 4-0 to set the voting quorum at 3.

- Select a Committee Vice-Chair

On a motion from Legisator Shimsky and seconded by Chairman Boykin, this item was approved with a vote of 4-0 to appoint Legislator Covill as Vice-Chair of the committee.

- Set meeting day and time

Meeting time was agreed to remain at Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Chairman Boykin stated that this item did not need to be voted on.

Discussion on recent developments and spread of Coronavirus

Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner of Westchester County Department of Health

Dr. Amler began her presentation by giving a brief overview into the definition, emergence, and spread of Coronavirus. According to Dr. Amler, the novel Coronavirus is one of seven Coronaviruses that have been discovered to affect humans. Conditions such as the common cold and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) are part of the Coronavirus group as noted by Dr. Amler. She noted that the virus was originally discovered in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late December, and that there have been an estimated 17,000 cases of the virus in the region, with a known death toll of 361 so far.

According to Dr. Amler, there are currently 11 known cases here in the U.S., which are in the 5 states, Washington, California, Illinois, Arizona, and Massachusetts. Following this, she noted that the President signed a proclamation on February 2nd limiting travel from China to the U.S. In order to prevent the spread of the virus, Dr. Amler recommended getting a flu shot, since the risk of contracting the virus is very low, given that one is more likely to contract the flu. In addition, she recommended washing hands, self isolation, and cleaning household services with regular bleach to limit the risk of infection.

It is important to note that the only place in the U.S. conducting testing for the virus is the CDC in Atlanta, and in order for the Westchester County Health Department to test for it, they would require approval from the CDC.

Chair Nancy Barr asked if there was any way infected passengers could book flights on private jets or aircraft at Westchester County Airport to circumvent the travel ban. Dr. Amler replied that the ban would prevent this, as they prohibit any flights coming directly from China into none other than 11 designated airports in the U.S. that are screening passengers. Chairman Boykin mentioned there have been tests in New York City for Coronavirus, and if any results have been confirmed. Dr. Amler replied that they have not received the results back yet, however, there have been no confirmed cases of the virus in

New York state so far. Dr. Amler noted that there is a hotline number for constant Coronavirus updates. The number is (888)-364-3065.

Updates and recent developments on countywide environmental projects and initiatives

Invited guest: Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability

Peter's first of item of discussion was centered on how he plans to attend 45 different sustainability events in different municipalities in the county throughout the year. Legislator Covill asked if a schedule of these events could be shared with the Board of Legislators.

Peter than shared updates about his Climate Action Plan. The 8 participating municipalities include Hastings, Irvington, Ossining Village and Town, White Plains, Peekskill, Pelham, and Tarrytown. Peter stated that this will occur some time in March.

Director McCartt then spoke about the Con Ed moratorium, and stated that there are multiple conferences and forums coming up on this subject, with the first one occurring on March 3rd and 4th, which includes Con Ed, NYSEDA, and Westchester County. It will be directed towards trade and industry professionals and chambers of commerce, and notifying business owners about renewable sources for energy. Chair Nancy Barr requested that this information be shared with the committee members. Director McCartt also brought another event to the Boards' attention, which is Sustainable Westchester's Clean Energy Conference on March 5th, and will be focused on Climate Leadership Community Protection Act, and how it will affect surrounding municipalities.

Director McCart then shared that they are actively pursuing fleet electrification, stating that they are on track to have their bus and transit fully electrified with EV's or EV hybrids by 2024. They are currently working with NYPA on building the infrastructure for this.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Covill and seconded by Legislator Shimsky, this meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM.

