

EMC Minutes for September 10, 2019

Present: Andrew Domenech, Katherine Domenech, Kris Pedersen, Lars Pedersen, Dave Haldeman, Julia Craner, Todd Craner, Steve Landsman, Patty Lee Parmalee (scribe)

There was no EMC business conducted other than announcements; instead the group heard a presentation by Charles Hailer of Dandelion Geothermal about the technology and benefits of ground-source geothermal heating/cooling systems.

Though the initial drilling and installation can be expensive (around \$18-25,000), there are credits available to help, and significant long-term savings over oil and gas systems which not only pollute and contribute to global warming, but are in the long run more expensive. (No combustion so no CO2 monitoring.) Dandelion claims the average customer will save over \$2000 per year on energy costs. This company includes a 10-year warranty, and the pump allegedly lasts 35 years.

Ground-source is not to be confused with air-source (which does not take advantage of the year-round 55 degree temperature in the earth). Note however that it does depend on existence of ductwork in the house.

The EMC would be interested in publicizing the concept, but as an official town committee it cannot appear to be promoting one vendor over another. Julie suggests Dandelion could at least have a vendor booth at Weekend of Wallkill Sept. 20-21st.

Contact information: DandelionEnergy.com, Hello@DandelionEnergy.com, 833-GEO4ALL; Charles Hailer: charles@geo4all, 617-959-6488.

Announcements mainly by Dave Haldeman:

Ralph (of the Refuge) is working on paths between Galeville Park and the Refuge.

And Larry Smith of Smith Brothers got the bridge back in place.

Rail trail: Dave has applied for a grant to regrade it from town center to Birch (grant however was refused); someone has bulldozed it but leaving bumps, so now only a grader is needed. The Rod and Gun Club got oak tree blowdown cleared away.

The County Planning Department is still not eager to pressure the Department of Prisons on permitting rail trail use through the property

Ulster County EMC: the plastic bag ban is going well, and plastic straws are now available in restaurants only on request. Amendments might cover cutlery etc.

Meetings about organic waste composting are continuing

The Climate Smart committee's next meeting is September 18

Next EMC meeting November 12, 7pm