

# **Upper Delaware Council**

P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, New York 12764-0192 • (Tel.) 845-252-3022 • (Fax) 845-252-3359

www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

# UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 6, 2023

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2023. Chairperson Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock- Fred Peckham (Zoom), Town of Fremont- Jim Greier, Town of Delaware- Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Cochecton- Larry Richardson, Town of Deerpark- Virginia Dudko, Town of Highland- Andy Boyar, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajsz (Zoom), Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, Delaware River Basin Commission- Beth Koniers Brown (Zoom), National Park Service- Lindsey Kurnath. Absent: Town of Tusten, Westfall Township, Lackawaxen Township, State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resources and Land Use Specialist- Kerry Engelhardt, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas (Zoom). Guests: Rebekah Creshkoff, Bill Dudko- Town of Deerpark Alternate, Alex Garcia-Maldonado- NPS (Zoom), Don Hamilton-NPS (Zoom), Camille O'Brien, Steve Richter, Heidi Schneider, Jim Powell, Jane Varcoe, George Shaffer, Tom Rue (Zoom), Kate Bowers (Zoom). Media: Liam Mayo- River Reporter, Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent (Zoom).

Presentation: "Plastics: Damning the Delaware" by Rebekah Creshkoff, environmental advocate and volunteer with Beyond Plastics Speakers Bureau: Rebecca Creshkoff thanked UDC for inviting her to speak on behalf of Beyond Plastics, a scrappy little non-profit whose audacious goal is to end plastic pollution everywhere. Creshkoff said she's a recovering corporate apologist. She served 30 years working in Communications at one of the top 20 Fortune 500 companies. Her job was to make employees love the big boss, Jamie Diamond, and she was good at it. Her husband teased her about working for the propaganda department but work wasn't the only thing she did. She got up early in the morning and checked buildings for migrating birds that had crashed into windows and been injured or killed. Other volunteers joined her and now Project Safe Flight is one of New York City Audubon's signature programs. Creshkoff also had another quirky passion, being incredibly attuned to plastic bags and took off like a dog chasing a squirrel whenever she saw one flying down the street. Other plastic offended her too. Imagine her horror one night when after their Chinese takeout she realized that rather than Project Safe Flight, her longest lasting legacy would be the plastic she's used throughout her lifetime.

Which leads her to another story. Once upon a time, not so very long ago there was a terrible war, with raw materials and short supply. Manufacturers turned to synthetics; the plastics industry came of age during World War II. Synthetics were deployed across the entire range of military equipment and supplies. U.S. plastic production increased by 300 % during the war but manufacturers knew that once it was over, they would have to find peacetime markets. DOW ran advertising on the home front, showing their wondrous new materials. Their wartime tagline: "Indispensable to Industry and Victory" but it wasn't clear that consumers would buy plastic goods. Plastic had a bad rap, it smelled strange, couldn't be mended when it broke, and melted when heated. It was time to launch an aggressive marketing campaign. The industry became one of Madison Avenue's biggest clients. Women's magazine's printed special issues dedicated to plastics and even sent an 11-page booklet to 12,000 home economics teachers around the country. Creshkoff said soon plastics became as American as apple pie. Those of us born after World War II have lived our entire lives surrounded by plastic which makes it difficult for us to even recognize. Like a fish in water, we can't even see it because it constitutes the environment in which we live. But we need to get better at recognizing plastic because it has impacts that go far beyond unsightly litter.

Plastics are made from fossil fuels and these days in the U.S. most of it is made from a byproduct of fracked gas. There is dry gas and wet gas. In our area, we have dry gas which comes to the surface virtually ready for market but

the wet gas in Western Pennsylvania contains other liquid compounds that must be separated out first. One of these is ethane which used to be flared off. These days that ethane is captured and sent via pipelines to an ethane cracker facility. Cracking is the term chemists use for the process of breaking molecular bonds in hydro complex hydrocarbons to create simpler ones because the carbon-carbon bond is very strong the process requires extremely high temperatures. Ethane cracks at 1650 degrees Fahrenheit creating ethylene, the basic building block in most plastics. Add pressure and a catalyst and you get polyethylene which is extruded and cut into little pellets. These tiny pellets are the feedstock for more than 65% of global plastic production as measured by weight and go into everything from auto parts to zippers but especially single-use items. It takes 1,000 of these pellets to make a single disposable water bottle. An estimated 42% of plastic produced today is used to make packaging that's designed to be used only briefly before being discarded. Most virgin plastic now goes into making containers, cups, packaging, plastic bags, straws, forks, plates, gift cards, Vapes, e-cigarettes, and cigarette filters which consist of tiny plastic fibers. All around the world cigarette butts are the most common type of plastic litter.

Creshkoff showed a map of new petrochemical and plastics infrastructure projects or expansions approved or announced since 2012. At least 90 such proposals have been advanced over the last decade including 42 major construction projects. She asked why is the fossil fuel industry investing so heavily in plastics? The increasing popularity of electric cars and renewables means they're losing market share in the transportation and energy sectors. According to the International Energy Agency, renewables are set to overtake coal to become the world's largest source of electricity by early 2025. To hedge their bets the fossil fuel industry is ramping up plastic production. This is their plan B but plastic is not carbon neutral. If plastic were a country, it'd be the world's fifthlargest emitter of greenhouse gases. Plastic generates greenhouse gases at every stage of its life cycle with fossil extraction through resin production accounting for more than 60% of its emissions. Cracking alone requires huge amounts of power. Creshkoff said the new shell plant has a permit that allows it to emit as much CO2 annually as 480,000 cars a year. That's equivalent to driving more than five and a half billion miles with an all-gas vehicle. Creshkoff said if all these new projects are built we may be unable to avoid the worst impacts of climate change because big corporations don't just walk away from multi-billion dollar investments. They don't want to wind up with stranded assets. Their business model commits them to making and selling ever more plastic but this is nothing new. Even in the mid-1950s, the industry looked to grow not by moving plastic into people's homes but through them. As the editor of Modern Packaging Magazine wrote at the time: "The future is in the trash can". But while the disposable phenomenon is not new, it's been accelerating almost exponentially. More than half of all the plastic ever manufactured has been made since 2002. 42% of plastic produced today goes to make packaging and the industry keeps on finding new things to wrap in it. As consumers, we cannot escape plastic and the industry knows that. Plenty of us feel guilty about buying so much of it. That's why they've engaged in an aggressive decades-long campaign to convince us that plastic recycling works.

The iconic recycling symbol was created in 1970 by 23-year-old architecture student Gary Anderson for a design competition. 18 years later the Society of the Plastics Industry appropriated the three chasing arrows for their resin identification system; an ingenious marketing move because it suggested that any item with a symbol could be recycled most of us remain convinced these simple symbols mean an item is recyclable. The industry has duped us into being not just willing, but eager partners in keeping plastic moving through our homes. Creshkoff said if you're like her, a couple of years ago you would comfort yourself by thinking well, at least it's recyclable. Wrong! No matter what your community or waste hauler tells you, only #1 plastic bottles and #2 HDPE bottles and jugs and possibly #5 polypropylene containers like yogurt containers have a realistic chance of getting recycled. That's because they're the only types of post-consumer plastic for which there are markets. Even #1 and #2 plastics generally aren't recycled into new bottles and jugs. Instead they are largely downcycled into carpeting and fleece fabric which kind of sounds like upcycling but it actually just serves to keep more single-use plastic moving through our homes. As for other types of plastic, it's more cost-effective for producers to buy virgin resin because polyethylene pellets are so cheap. No one's going to use recycled plastic if they're losing money on it. So what actually happens with all our other plastic? Typically it winds up getting burned, generally in a waste to energy facility if there's one close by or they go to a cement kiln. Either one of which might sound like a good thing, at least they're getting energy out of it, but it actually isn't because these facilities release toxic pollutants as well as greenhouse gases. Plastics recycling has been an abysmal failure. In the U.S our annual recycling rate for postconsumer plastic waste has never hit double digits. In 2021 it was less than 6%. The world over globally only 9% of the plastic is recycled. while 22% is mismanaged. What isn't landfilled or incinerated often gets swept into creeks and rivers and eventually the ocean. This range is conservative and based on old data. Even 8 million metric tons a year works out to a garbage truck's worth of plastic every minute for an entire year at that rate just two years from

now there'll be one pound of plastics for every three pounds of fish in the sea by 2050. The ratio will be one-to-one. We are turning our oceans into a landfill which is profoundly affecting the more than three billion people who depend on the sea for their livelihood and of course all this plastic is not good for sea creatures which become entangled in or ingest plastic. Worldwide 5 trillion plastic bags are used every year, more than a million a minute. Plastic debris in the ocean attracts zoa plants into its surface which makes it smell like food deceived by the scent. She shared a photo of an Albatross that starved to death because it could not pass plastic bottle caps. There have been over 700 different species found to be negatively impacted by plastic waste in the ocean. These plastic bottles don't remain intact for long they become brittle in sunlight. While plastic doesn't break down it does break up into every smaller fragments. Researchers now estimate that there are more than 170 trillion bits of plastic in the oceans, describing it as a plastic smog.

These tiny fragments of plastic aren't just in the ocean, microplastics have been found on Mount Everest and in the Mariana Trench. They've been found in the air, water, soil and rainwater, they've been found in snowflakes. Creshkoff said once she saw a photo of a snowflake with a fiber that could have been from a fleece she stopped wearing the one she had for 30 years. In many studies, fibers from synthetic fabrics are the top microplastic found in the environment. Including in the USGS study of the Upper Delaware that came out a few years ago. Microplastics are found in soils where they are taken up by crops. They are in the food chain and inside us. Each week everyone, everywhere in the world, eats, drinks, or inhales five grams of plastic. That's equivalent to a credit card 52 times a year. In effect we are eating our own waste now. Is ingesting microplastics bad for us? Researchers have only begun looking into this but we do know for sure that many of the chemicals used to make plastics are from fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals. It's the added chemicals that give plastics their useful attributes like flexibility, durability, rigidity or heat resistance. On their own polymers are just a goopy mess. It takes a lot of additives to do the job. Any given plastics item is about 50-50 polymers and chemicals. Some of these chemicals were on the freight train that derailed in East Palestine, Ohio in early February including the highly toxic monochloride which is used only to make plastics. As for the polymer, half of plastics it forms a backbone made up of those strong carbon bonds but the chemical additives are not actually attached at a molecular level. They just sit between the folds because they're not tightly bound to the material they don't stay put and these chemicals are not inert.

Creshkoff said if there's one thing you take away from this talk, it should be that plastics are not inert. Our bodies are constantly exposed to thousands of chemicals that leach from plastic, some of which we know are harmful to human health. A number of them like bisphenols phthalates and brominated flame retardants are endocrine disruptors. Minuscule amounts of these compounds can hack the endocrine system and scramble hormone messages. They have been linked to ADHD behavioral problems, lower IQ and depressed immune function, as well as autism spectrum disorder, reproductive issues, obesity, diabetes and cancer. The authors of the 2021 study conservatively estimated that phthalates alone are responsible for 100,000 premature deaths in the U.S each year. If researchers were to conduct a study that deliberately exposed humans to a host of different chemicals including known toxins it would be considered unethical in the extreme and yet that is what is happening to all of us every day of our lives. It starts even before we are born. Then there are substances that are unintentionally added to plastics. Most if not all plastics are contaminated with PFAs, in a class of more than 9,000 compounds called forever chemicals because they don't break down and they persist in the environment. They too have been linked to a range of harmful health effects and while they are deliberately added to things like waterproof clothing and takeout containers, researchers are finding them in more and more products because manufacturers use PFAs on their machinery as a lubricant. Similarly, all plastics are contaminated with flame retardants which are applied to the machinery so the plastic doesn't catch fire. After all, plastics are made from fossil fuels and like other fossil fuels they spill and when they do it makes a big mess.

Tiny beads of plastic resin are called nurdles. They're so tiny they are prone to spilling whenever they're moved. in May of 2021 a container ship the SS Pearl caught fire off the coast of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It burned for two weeks and finally sank as it was towed out to sea. The worst environmental damage came not from heavy fuel oil or hazardous chemicals but from 87 shipping containers filled with nearly 1800 tons of nurdles. It was the largest plastic spill the world has seen to date. Sri Lanka launched a massive cleanup effort. Shorelines were covered with nurdles up to six and a half feet deep and nurdles continue to wash ashore in new places today. Thanks to plastic's strong carbon backbone they will continue to circulate in ocean currents for decades to come, releasing their toxic payload wherever they go, including inside the fish, seabirds, turtles and other wildlife that mistake these tiny pellets for food. They look like fish eggs and like other plastic debris they attract zooplanks into their surface and come to smell like food too those that aren't consumed by animals will over time fragment into tiny microscopic particles and

be ingested by plankton, the base of the entire marine food chain. More than 250,000 tons of nurdles end up in the ocean every year. 8 billion tons of plastics have been made since 1950. That's equivalent to 55 million jumbo jets. Only 9% of it has been recycled. Most of it still exists today. The mass of plastics mankind has made is twice that of all animals on Earth.

Creshkoff asked what can we do about all this? We can't fix this problem overnight. We can start to make it better by not making it any worse. She said a huge shout out to everyone who organizes and participates in the UDC's Litter Sweep. You are actively keeping plastic waste from deteriorating any further into the environment and escaping into our soils and oceans but to really make a dent we can't focus on just cleaning up litter after the fact. We need to prevent it from happening in the first place. To stop plastic pollution we need to stop making so much plastic and since 42% of the plastic produced today goes to make packaging that's where we need to zero in. It won't be easy. The industry struck gold when they got us addicted to disposable plastic and they struck gold again when they convinced us that recycling was a viable. Creshkoff said while making changes in our own lives is all well and good we need to tackle this beast not just for our personal choices but through policy change. Beyond Plastics supports a policy called extended producer responsibility also known as effective packaging reduction which makes producers legally and financially responsible for mitigating the end-of-life impacts of their products and packaging. Creshkoff said in a nutshell you make it, you take it. It's a big shift from our current linear model where municipalities and taxpayers are left holding the bag. The goal is to incentivize waste reduction and packaging redesign but packaging reduction is tricky and complex so it's important to do it. Right legislation needs to include specific reduction requirements and standards for recyclability and it's essential to eliminate toxic substances from packaging particularly food packaging. Four states: Oregon, Maine, California, and Colorado have already passed packaging reduction laws and a couple of bills have been introduced in New York State at the federal level. The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act will shortly be reintroduced. It focuses on packaging reduction but what she really likes is that it calls for a pause on new plastic producing facilities. You can help push for policy change. Start by joining Beyond Plastic's mailing list. They've also developed a whole set of easy to implement grassroots actions you can take in your own community, and to really make an impact, join the local groups and affiliate programs to help you get started. Beyond Plastics offers free online training sessions. It's four hours over two days and you can mix and match whichever time slots work for you. The next series will be held in May and Creshkoff encourages all to keep on learning. Later this month Judith Enck, founder and president of Beyond Plastics will be holding her excellent seven-week class. Creshkoff has taken it twice. A short question and answer period followed. Robinson presented Creshkoff with a UDC lapel pin and thanked her for the enlightening presentation.

**Approval of March 2, 2023 meeting minutes:** A motion by Henry seconded by Boyar, to approve the March 2, 2023 meeting minutes carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

**Committee Reports:** There were no questions regarding previously distributed minutes: Water Use/Resource Management, March 21<sup>st</sup> (Dudko), Project Review, March 28<sup>th</sup> (Richardson); and Operations, March 28<sup>th</sup> (Robinson).

## Status Reports

**Delaware River Basin Commission:** Koniers Brown thanked the UDC for continuing to make the meetings available via Zoom. The DRBC held its first quarter business meeting on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> they are already looking ahead to the second quarter. They will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The full list of what will be heard at the hearing has not been finalized but when it is, it's posted on their website, and that's usually 10 days before the hearing. That will be open to the public as always, and will be held over zoom as well. Their second quarter business meeting is in-person, meeting on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Rutgers University, Camden campus. They are also planning to live stream it; however, if you're interested in making comments during the open public comment session they do ask that you come in person. The DRBC has a number of advisory committee meetings coming up. The Regulated Flow Advisory Committee is meeting Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1p.m. to 3p.m. and that will be another opportunity to hear about the NYC aqueduct shutdown. Jen Garigliano is presenting at the May UDC meeting as well as this meeting, along with Amy Shallcross from DRBC. On Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, there's a joint meeting of the DRBC's Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee, along with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuaries Science and Technical Advisory Committee, meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. the Water Management Advisory Committee will meet. There's a copy of their Weekly

Hydrologic Conditions Report. They send this out every week to interested stakeholders and the tables and graphs are updated daily on their website.

Last month somebody asked her why the F.E. Walter Reservoir showing at 0. That's considered 0% full when it's at its winter pool level. At the time last month, it was at Winter Pool and that's actually an elevation of 1,300 feet. So, it's not empty. It's just at the winter pool level. Since that time, it's starting to fill to its recreation pool level, which is much higher.

DRBC is hiring. They have an opening for a Community Engagement Specialist. If you know anyone that might be interested in that role, please pass that information on to her. This is a grant supported temporary position so it's contingent on future funding from grants.

**NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation:** Coulter was unable to attend but left a report that the NYS DEC Operations crew was able to clear trees at the Long eddy River Access site last week.

### PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: Absent.

**National Park Service-Upper Delaware:** Kurnath said re: Camp Fimfo they are still awaiting the submission from Northgate on additional documents. NPS connected them with their hydrologic and hydraulic analysis experts offering advice. They've encouraged them to send any updates piecemeal rather than a big submission in the hopes of that could help expedite NPS's review. At this point they haven't received anything since the 2/17 letter. Kurnath thanked Engelhardt scheduling a meeting with Lackawaxen Township to discuss that amendment.

They are still working on the process for hiring a community planner and administrative officer. She thanked everyone who helped get the word out about those positions. They had a great list of applicants. Unfortunately, they way their H.R. system works, she heard 36 people applied for the community planner, but they only got 6 names. She's working on those interviews and starting to check references. She's also exploring avenues to add some other administrative type support. She appreciates the UDC's patience. She knows some of NPS's timelines have been lagging. The bench is not very deep at the moment, and she is also troubleshooting some ways to get some additional help to keep things moving. She knows NPS has an obligaton to the UDC and the public. NPS's fishing guides commercial use authorization holder meeting is in Hancock, NY on 4/12. Training with the National Canoe Safety Patrol is also coming up.

Kurnath asked everyone to share their Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River experiences for the **#What'sYourParkStory?** campaign during **4/22-30** National Park Week with <u>Susie Kaspar@nps.gov</u> to create UPDE buzz on social media.

Lastly, an email was sent out requesting help looking for housing for NPS seasonals from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup> and potentially to the end of September. Please reach out to <a href="mailto:Ingrid\_Peterec@nps.gov">Ingrid\_Peterec@nps.gov</a> if you know of any leads.

**UDC Executive Director's Report:** Ramie submitted our federal funding application package for the Fiscal Year 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters to the National Park Service Upper Delaware interim Administrative Officer and through the required online portal on 3/30. Securing that \$150,000 allocation would carry us through to 9/30. Currently, we have \$24,212.80 left in our ASAP account which may not be enough to cover this month's bills if this approval doesn't come through by the 4/25 date of our next Operations Committee. We would need to dip into our reserve funds otherwise.

At the March 28 Operations Committee meeting, Ramie reviewed an activity log that has transpired since our 2/23 State and Federal Partnership Summit. Her updates are that we await the scheduling of a few meetings, including U.S. Senator Fetterman's staff coordination with Congressman Cartwright's aides, Assemblywoman Gunther's offer to get us before the Ways and Means Committee secretary, Sullivan County Republican Committee Chairman Gary Maas's offer to reach out to NYS Senator Oberacker, and Jeff Dexter is following up to arrange a meeting with PA Senator Baker. Sen. Oberacker intends to come visit us here to receive an introduction to the UDC, most likely in May since he's on call for legislative action on the delayed NYS Budget. Robinson felt that, based on how responsive Senator Fetterman's aides have been to help on the federal level, it would be appropriate to invite him to the river valley, perhaps for an early summer paddle that we would seek to arrange with the NPS. Additionally, there

are plans to invite our region's state and federal representatives to participate in various Upper Delaware Litter Sweep clean-ups within their districts where conversation during this good deed could turn to financial matters. She will get back to the committee with specifics as they are firmed up on all these fronts.

At the 3/21 Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting, Ramie mentioned that there has been some movement regarding the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge. The first phase of the Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis has been completed. Its purpose is to examine whether it's possible to rehabilitate the bridge and maintain its historic integrity, which obviously will inform the ultimate construction alternatives. The consultants for the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study have set a 5/24 virtual meeting of the Project Advisory Committee to reveal those results. There will be public meetings set, particularly when the build alternatives are released for the 1902 bridge, but this isn't one of them.

Ramie regrets to inform members of the passing of another former Upper Delaware Council board member and a Shohola Township supervisor. Henry Prigge was Shohola's appointed alternate from mid-1996 until January 2000, serving under UDC Representatives Andrew Bartsch and then George J. Fluhr for a time. Henry died on March 17 at the age of 87. The Army veteran had owned and operated Hank's TV. Besides serving as a township supervisor, his obituary mentions that he was a member of the Shohola Fire Dept., Shohola Area Lions Club, Shohola Rod & Gun Club, St. Jacobi Lutheran Church, and president of the German Hill Cemetery Association, which is where a private service and burial was scheduled. It doesn't mention his UDC stint but does say that "he loved fishing and hunting, was an avid reader, loved crossword and jigsaw puzzles, NASACAR and country music, and it has often been said that he never met a dessert he didn't like!"

Lastly, please see the April and May calendars in your packets. Next month's UDC presentation will be an update on the Delaware Aqueduct Shutdown by Jennifer Garigliano from NYC DEP.

#### **New Business**

**Substantial Conformance Recommendation 2023-02: Big Eddy Brewing, Town of Tusten:** A Motion by Henry seconded by Roeder to approve the substantial conformance recommendation draft letter to NPS regarding UDC 2023-02: Big Eddy Brewing, Town of Tusten carried unanimously.

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Community Organization Sponsorship of UDC August 1st: Following a positive response, Ramie will accept the Community Organization sponsorship offer by the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders for the 8/1 game at 6:35 p.m. against the Rochester Red Wings and purchase 25 discounted tickets at \$10 to sell online at a fundraising profit of \$15 (normal price \$20). The UDC will highlight the UDC's mission and activities, and partner with National Park Service staff to promote a water safety message.

**Other:** At the suggestion of the committee Ramie will send an appreciation letter to Rebekah Creshkoff for her 4/6 presentation, "Plastics: Damning the Delaware", and a letter to Beyond Plastics in support of their mission. We will provide the statistics that were shared through publicity outreach.

#### **Old Business**

**Proposals due for River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants by April 21:** Member municipalities please submit proposals for the 2023 River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants program to Ramie by 4/21 for review and the recommendation of awards at the 4/25 Operations Committee.

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep April 22-30: Hall-Bagdonas said this will be our last full council meeting before the Litter Sweep and \$5,488 is in our Jeff Bank Litter Sweep Jeff Bank account. We've raised about \$4,000 from 17 different sponsors! They included individuals, businesses, and organizations. We will be issuing a press release and writing an article in the next newsletter to express appreciation. She sent in the completed DOT permit and is arranging logistics with various Litter Leaders. Many Town/ships have a few Litter Sweeps each. Boyar has published a Letter to the Editor in local newspapers encouraging Litter Sweep participation. Hall-Bagdonas would like to have a litter sweep calendar as dates come in to share with members.

Other: None.

**Public Comment:** For those interested: Bill Dudko noted that the Town of Deerpark will hold a 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony at 7 p.m. on 4/17 at the municipal building in Huguenot, NY.

Adjournment: A motion by Ginny Dudko, seconded by Greier, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 4-24-2023 Recording available upon request