

Westchester County Board of Legislators

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: February 26, 2007

MEMBERS: Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Kaplowitz, Rogowsky, and Myers

IN ATTENDANCE: **LAW:** Lori Alesio, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Linda Trentacoste; **Cons. Prot.:** J. Gaccione (Sealer); **Staff:** Chris Crane; **SCORE:** Margo Schepart; L. Wilson (list of other attendees is on file)

Meeting called to order at 3:25 pm.

Item(s) Discussed:

Chair Abinanti opened the meeting by renewing discussion on the County Executive's petition to revise criteria for relicensing nuclear power plants. Upon the motion of Leg. Kaplowitz, seconded by Leg. Rogowsky, the Committee approved proposed legislation authorizing the County Attorney to appeal the NRC's denial of the County Executive's petition (4-0).

Ms. Schepart, SCORE, then addressed the Committee regarding excessive energy consumption in Westchester County and means to mitigate rising energy costs and adverse environmental impacts. SCORE, Schools and Communities Organized to Reduce Energy, is a local energy conservation group that focuses on public education efforts, emphasizing energy conservation by reducing consumption. Ms. Schepart stressed the need for the County government to lead these conservation efforts by implementing energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly policies and legislation, as well as incorporating energy-efficiency into new capital projects. Chair Abinanti recommended that Leg. Kaplowitz lead a sub-committee to review these considerations with SCORE and other interested parties, to which Leg. Kaplowitz consented. After further review by the sub-committee, the Committee will consider at a future meeting whether legislation is appropriate to implement specific sub-committee recommendations.

The Committee then reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2006 Committee meeting. Upon the motion of Leg. Kaplowitz, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Committee approved the Dec. 18 minutes (4-0). The Committee also voted to receive and file the following items referred to the Committee: Nos. 23, 72, 74, 75, 82 and 83 (Motion – Leg. Kaplowitz, Second – Leg. Myers; 4-0).

The Committee then discussed proposed legislation regulating leaf blowers in the County of Westchester. Andrew Neuman, CEO, provided an overview of the proposal, along with deputy County sealer, John Gaccione. Several parties in attendance, including landscapers, blower manufacturers and environmental advocates, commented on the the environmental, health, and fiscal impacts of the proposed legislation.

Upon the motion of Leg. Kaplowitz, seconded by Leg. Rogowsky, the Committee approved the proposed leafblower legislation for public hearing only (4-0).

Upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Chair Abinanti, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm (4-0).