



MINUTES OF THE EASEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

January 7, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Hutson, *Committee Chair*
Paul Gallay, via Teams
Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone
Fred Huneke
Michael Vander Werff, *NYC DEP*, via Teams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennifer Grossman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Serena Orleski, *Easement Program Manager*
Rebecca Morgan, *Land Protection Coordinator*
Mike Morales, *Easement Program Stewardship Coordinator*
Matt Schaefer, *Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist*
Julian Motola, *Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist*
Troy Bookhout, *Easement Program Conservation Planner*
Kayla Atanasoff, *Easement Program Executive Assistant*
Ryan Naatz, *Executive Director*, via Teams
Amy Faulkner, *Director of Operations*, via Teams
Morgan Tarbell, *NYS DOH*, via Teams

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Kristin Schneider, via Teams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2025 public meeting of the Easement Committee.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Bud Gladstone

Motion Carried

III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Easement Round Table – *added as a Discussion Item in Public Session*

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT/PROGRAM MOTIONS

- A. Chair's Report

B. Agricultural CE Applicant Selection Working Group

Motion to form the Agricultural CE Applicant Selection Working Group for scoring and ranking of new ACE applicants.

Motion: Paul Gallay

Second: Bud Gladstone

Motion Carried

C. Forest CE Applicant Selection Working Group

Motion to form the Forest CE Applicant Selection Working Group for scoring and ranking of new FCE applicants.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Bud Gladstone

Motion Carried

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Easement Round Table

Serena announced that she and Rebecca will be hosting an Easement Round Table event at the Hamden Town Hall on Friday, March 13, 2026. Invitations will be sent out soon and a complimentary lunch will be included. They will also be tabling at the upcoming Catskill Regional Agriculture Conference to get the word out.

VI. STEWARDSHIP MOTIONS

None

VII. STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

None

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IX-XI)

Motion at 10:09 a.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Violations/Legal Updates, Acquisition Project Motions/Updates, and Other Business.

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Fred Huneke

Motion Carried

Motion at 10:30 a.m. to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Bud Gladstone

Motion Carried

IX. VIOLATIONS/LEGAL UPDATES

- A. (PID 6004): Whole Farm Plan/CREP Violation
- B. (PID 6262): Recreational Structure in RPA Violation Update

X. ACQUISITION PROJECT MOTIONS/UPDATES (*MOTIONS IN PUBLIC MEETING*)

ACE Project Motions

- A. (PID 6315): Request for Extension to Contract for Purchase & Sale

Motion to extend the Contract for Purchase and Sale for conservation easement project property #6315 for a period of three (3) months, with a new expiration date of May 26, 2026.

Motion: Paul Gallay
Second: Bud Gladstone

Motion Carried

FCE Project Motions

None

Updates

- A. Project Updates

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER BUSINESS

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., via Teams**