

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PROGRESSIVES
March 1, 2018**

In Attendance:	Emily Adams	Susan Beckley
	Jason Cortell	Dan Gouldin
	Cait Darfler	Amanda Kirchgessner
	Deborah Dawson	
	Ronny Hardaway	
	Mario Hernandez	
	Kris Hodges	
	Kim Knight	
	Martha Laux	
	Ted Laux	

Co-chair **Kim Knight** called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Members and guests in attendance were invited to participate in a public comment period. **Amanda Kirchgessner** introduced herself as a Democratic candidate for Tom O’Mara’s State Senate seat, and is asking for TCP’s endorsement. Kirchgessner, a resident of Jacksonville in the Town of Ulysses, stressed her family’s generations-long roots in Ithaca, her commitment to our region., and her familiarity with the plight of the working class in Ithaca. (Kirchgessner is a waitress at the State Diner: her current campaign slogan is “From the State Diner to the State Senate.”) Her issues are: passing the New York Health Act; passing the Climate and Community Protection Act (because it would impose a carbon tax and could create 150,000 jobs in sustainable energy projects in NYS); and continuing the work she began with the Multicultural Resource Center and the Decarcerate Tompkins group, to pass bail reform without legislative loopholes and to address problems in the probation and parole systems. Kirchgessner also expressed her support for the mission of the Tompkins County Workers’ Center, and her opposition to the IDC in Albany. She hopes to have her website up later this spring. Meanwhile, interested parties can reach her at amandakirchgessner@gmail.com

Susan Beckley introduced herself as an independent candidate for O’Mara’s seat. Beckley is a lifelong Republican who worked with many of TCP’s founding members on Bernie’s campaign, and continues to work hard to get the New York Health Act passed. (Dr. Susan Soboroff, a well-respected proponent of the Health Act, is her campaign Treasurer.) Beckley chooses to run as an independent because of the demographics of our State Senate district. Given those demographics, she is not asking for TCP’s endorsement at this time, although she would like our support. Beckley’s candidacy is motivated primarily, if not solely, by her desire to pass the single payer in New York State. She declined to provide us with her positions on other issues, because she is still studying them. She also implied that she was reluctant to take firm positions

on issues that might alienate the district's more conservative rural voters. Interested parties may contact Beckley at electsusanbeckley@gmail.com, or through her website at www.electSusanBeckley.com.

Committee Reports:

Cait Darfler submitted a written report from the **Environmental Justice Committee**, which is attached to these minutes. She reported that, in the interim between when she submitted her report and the meeting, the County Legislature's Planning, Development, and Economic Quality (PDEQ) Committee had passed the resolution supporting the Governor's suggested ban on single use plastic bags.

Note: Since our Board Meeting, the Tompkins County Legislature met and passed two resolutions with environmental consequences: one opposing Circular EnerG's proposed massive incinerator in Romulus, and another advising NYSEG that any proposals involving trucking LNG or CNG into Tompkins County would not be considered to be acceptable alternatives to a natural gas pipeline under NYSEG's current Request for Proposals. The paper bag resolution was withdrawn by PDEQ Chair Anna Kelles so that it can be returned to Committee and revised to reflect the more stringent restrictions on plastic *and* paper bags proposed in a recently filed State Assembly bill.

There were no other Committee Reports for January 2018.

Jason Cortell reported that 42 members have paid their dues for 2018.

Cortell was uncertain as to TCP's exact financial status, since NYPAN has not provided an accounting so far this year.

A discussion ensued as to whether, and when, we ought to cull old members who did not renew their memberships from our listserve. It was decided that we will wait for a bit before we do this.

Emily Adams reported on NYPAN's activities since our last meeting. On the campaign front, NYPAN endorsed Jumaane Williams, a NYC Councilman who will challenge Kathy Hochul for the Lieutenant Governorship. The organization is also proceeding with endorsements for Congressional candidates in other districts around the State.

NYPAN has also accepted the Working Family Party's invitation to apply to be an affiliate of WFP, a relationship which would give the organization a voice in WFP endorsement decisions.

Note: As of this writing, the future of the NYPAN-WFP relationship is still very much up in the air.

Knight reported that Tompkins County's Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) group would like TCP representatives to work on planning with its coordinating team. Knight and **Mario Hernandez** agreed to be our representatives to SURJ. Adams suggested that we consider co-hosting an event with SURJ that would feature Jumaane Williams.

The discussion turned to planning for the NYPAN quarterly meeting in September, which TCP will be hosting here in Ithaca. Adams stated that she hadn't heard back from Our Revolution about Nina Turner's availability, so she hadn't yet chosen a date. Everyone agreed that we cannot wait too much longer to set a date, because, if we do, venues and accommodations may be unavailable. For example, the State Theatre is already booked with events on September 11, 27, and 30. It was agreed that we should just go ahead and book the State Theatre, and then get what speakers we can. Knight agreed to coordinate with the theatre.

Cortell reported that the Platform Committee had not met since the last Board meeting, but that he was organizing a meeting to be held soon.

Deborah Dawson announced that there will be a rally on The Commons from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday March 24, in conjunction with the March for Our Lives events that will be held across the country on that day. The Ithaca rally will focus not only on gun safety in our schools and community, but also on the threats that have been experienced by the students (and their families) who started the Students United group at Ithaca High School. All of our members are invited to attend and stand in support of our children, safe schools, and a safe community.

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:25 to go into Executive Session.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be on April 5.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental Justice Committee

Author: Cait Darfler

Committee Update for February 2018

1. There are 3 important resolutions being considered by the Legislature. Support for these is IMPORTANT.

On Monday, Feb. 26, the county's Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee will be considering the following important resolutions:

1. Opposing the use of CNG and/or LNG as solutions in response to the Non-Pipe Alternatives RFP.
2. Opposing the Proposed Garbage Incinerator in Romulus
3. Support of a Statewide Ban on Lightweight Single-Use Plastic Retail Bags

See <http://tompkinscountyny.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2935&Inline=True> for the full agenda.

Assuming these pass the PDEQ committee the full Legislature will consider these Resolutions on **March 6 Legislative Meeting at starting at 5:30PM.** Please try to attend to show support or comment for these resolutions.

The Legislature meeting has public comment at 5:30PM on March 6th. The meeting is in the Legislature chambers at [121 E. Court St.](#), entrance off of DeWitt Park. Second floor of the building.

The best way to help these resolutions is to show up and speak during public comment. If it's hard to get there, you can send your comments to the whole legislature by writing to Cathy Covert at ccover@tompkins-co.org.

2. Save the Date!

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council (EMC) - Public Forum - Thursday March 15th - at the Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room. Main Program from 5:00-6:30PM followed by a mix and mingle.