

# **New York Coalition for Open Government**

**Thursday February 9, 2023, 6:30 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**Email [paulwolf2@gmail.com](mailto:paulwolf2@gmail.com) for the meeting link**

**Public Comments Are Welcome At Any Time During Our Meetings. Don't Be Shy To Ask A Question Or To Make A Point!**

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2023 **PG 3-5**
  
- 2) Treasurer's Report – 86 total paid members (from 28 counties) **PG 6-7**  
\$4,616.15 with 65 being current
  
- 3) Membership Dues – Move to calendar year?
  
- 4) 2023 Calendar **PG 8-10**
  
- 5) Tug Hill Commission Conference, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Verona, NY **PG 11-15**  
Michelle is interested in attending, are others interested?
  
- 6) Open Meetings Law Committee
  - A) Released Report regarding secret caucus meetings held at the local level.
  - B) Working on report regarding live streaming of meetings, purpose is to determine how many local governments are doing live streaming and to assist others to do so. During Sunshine Week in March we will hold a forum on this issue as well.
  - C) Governor Hochul signed a new law sponsored by Senator Jessica Ramos and Assemblymember Michelle Solages (S8419-B/A9622-C), requiring Community Advisory Committees formed for Empire State Development projects to meet publicly, provide public notice of meetings, and publish all meeting materials on ESD's website.

This legislation opens the door to expanding this to local advisory committees

which are not subject to the Open Meetings Law.

7) Freedom of Information Law Committee

**PG 16-17**

- A) FOIL Scorecard/Checklist- feel free to use and modify
- B) Attorney General Mediation – Paul drafted proposed legislation, sent to AG staff, waiting to hear back.
- C) Mandatory Attorney Fees – Paul drafted proposed legislation, sent to Senator Skoufis, & Assemblymember Steck, waiting to hear back.
- D) The Committee reviewed legislation by Senator Skoufis (S8926), which makes many amendments to the Open Meetings Law and FOIL. After reviewing the pros and cons, the Committee passed a motion recommending that the board not support this legislation.

8) Public Relations/Education Group Minutes

**PG 18-21**

- A) Capital Region Zoom training occurred on 1/26, with 20 people attending, brought in 3 new members and additional interest in forming a local chapter to address issues in the Capital Region.
- B) Mark Mahoney, from the Daily Gazette in Schenectady has agreed to speak at our Annual Meeting which will occur by Zoom on May 17, at 7:00 pm.
- C) Continuing to research the idea of fundraising to litigate open government matters.
- D) There is interest in reaching out to schools to work with teachers to educate students about the importance of open government

9) New Business

10) Next Meetings

Open Meetings Law Committee February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm

Freedom of Information Law Committee February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 pm

Public Relations Education Group March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:00pm

Coalition Board Meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm