

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
August 6, 2014
Town Hall
7:30 pm

Participants: Joe Bergstein, Rhett Weires, Libby Murphy, Mike Domitrovits, Laura Deney, Jim Littlefoot. Also present is Town Board liaison Dan Torres.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Agenda

Public Comment: None

Review/Approval of July Meeting Minutes: Mike made a motion to approve last month's minutes as amended. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

EnCB Budget for 2015 – Jim would like to increase the amount budgeted for Member Training. Joe would like to include in the budget some sort of award fund, say to purchase a plaque, to offer to those with a beneficial green environmental project. It was decided to increase the Equipment line item. The total budget is \$1,850. Laura made a motion to approve the budget. Mike seconded. All in favor.

Planning Board Projects Status:

- ShopRite Plaza Renovations/Upgrade – Letter drafted by Libby. A motion was made by Mike to approve the letter as amended to include Joe's revisions. Seconded by Laura. All in favor. Libby will finalize it and send to the boards.
- Mohonk Preserve Testimonial Gatehouse Plan – Discussion was held about issues raised by Town Board Member Jeff Logan about our letter.
- 21 Tracy Road accessory apartment – No EnCB comment.
- Extra Space Storage at 24 South Putt Corners Rd. - Adding solar panels to roof of existing storage units. No EnCB comment.
- Whispering Woods, LLC 130 DuBois Road Private Montessori Elementary School – No EnCB comment.
- Tree Removal Application, 51 Henry W. DuBois Road. Joe recused himself from the discussion as he is acquainted with the applicants. The two trees in question, an oak and a maple, appear healthy and as if they might just need branches taken off, perhaps by power company. Rhett made a motion to deny the application. Seconded by Laura. All in favor with two abstentions (Joe and Mike). Would be willing to reconsider application if a third party, an arborist, could prove existence of rot or danger.

- Tree Removal Application, 59 Shivertown Road. Applicant wishes to remove 3 trees in order to install solar panels. Rhett made a motion to approve removal of the elm and maple and deny permit to remove the shag hickory on the basis of health, aesthetics, size, location and environmental usefulness of the tree. Jim seconded the motion. All in favor.
- EnCB liaison report of Planning Board meeting. Laura attended the first hour, which was a public hearing on the Wildberry project. Dave Porter had good comments. He wants them to go to Omega Institute to check out their water installations. They create and clean all their own water. Toxic soil issue was raised. Tim Rogers mentioned EnCB letter several times. Displacing wildlife (bear and deer) was also brought up. Laura would like to invite Steve Turk to come to our next meeting. He invited us to tour Rocking Horse Ranch. Libby will check agenda and date of next PB meeting to see if liaison would be useful.

Discussions:

Plastic Bag ban, model laws, joining with Village (Joe) – Dan is in favor of town doing it. Some other board members are more hesitant, while the village board seems more positive. Might not happen simultaneously. A Stop and Shop representative (not from New Paltz) he spoke to was very resistant. Town recycling center could produce reusable bags to give away, which would also be a good promotion.

Rupco Green Jobs, Green New York – Update/information from Dan Torres. Two sessions were held. Many people are interested in the program which has gotten a lot of coverage in the New Paltz Times.

Parking Lots; issues to address (Joe): Norman Turner had an idea to start a committee to address new parking lot issues. Norman and Joe and Libby would like to participate and possibly pull in other members from outside EnCB. Joe made a motion that the EnCB establish a sub-committee to address recommending use of green infrastructure practices for parking lots and look into amending town code chapter 140. Motion seconded by Rhett. All in favor.

New Business: None.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded it. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.