

Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board

Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2021

New Paltz Community Center, 3 Veteran's Drive and via Zoom

Present: Ted Nitza, Rose Rudnitski, Yoni Schwartz, Kenji Tierney, Rich Whitney
Amanda Gotto, Planning Board Liaison
Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Liaison
Kathy Preston, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m.

1. Ted moved, Yoni 2nd to approve the September minutes as written. All in favor.
2. The Board interviewed Chris Beadle, who is interested in joining the Board. She recently moved to New Paltz from Northfield, NH, where she served on the Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, and Planning Board.
3. Board members volunteered to attend the following Planning Board meetings: Kenji, 10/25; Ted 11/8
4. Planning Board updates:
 - The public comment period has been left open for the 9 Gatehouse Rd. lot line revision. A wetland permit will be needed if the fence is moved.
 - 140-150 S. Putt is a 19-acre parcel with substantial wetlands; the application review received some pushback.
 - The sidewalk requirement is likely to be waived for the Chaiken subdivision on S. Ohioville Rd..
 - Trans-Hudson has returned with a more complete site plan. Andy Willingham is now the engineer. With the exception of the waivers received for second-story requirement and drive-thru, the project is in alignment with the Rt. 299 Gateway Zoning. The entire project is three feet below grade so much less fill will be trucked in. Parking is in the rear, and buildings have been clustered toward the road. There are plans for public parking and restrooms. The Empire State Trail connection is still in the buffer; Yoni suggested that the EnCB look at their previous letter regarding placement of the trail and resubmit if necessary.
5. The letter regarding 192 Mountain Rest Rd. was reviewed and suggestions given for revision.
6. Yoni moved, Rose 2nd to approve the payment of the ESRI invoice #94117188 in the amount of \$10.00.
7. Ted and Janelle updated the Board on progress with the solar project on the landfill. The Ad-Hoc committee plan to recommend the proposal to the Town Board. The contract would be with Sunlight General Capital for a 3 megawatt project with a 25-year lease and 4-5 year extension; future expansion could be possible but would need further approval. No trees are endangered in the current proposal.

8. Village EPB: Ted reported that a new High School student has joined the Board. New Paltz Apartments is still working on the scoping study so it will be a few months before they return.
9. Amanda announced that Nate Nardi-Cyrus will be leading an NRI training session on November 8 at 6 pm via Zoom for the Planning Board and other interested parties.
 - Janelle provided an update on the Climate Smart Coalition's activities. The Climate Smart Book Club meets every third Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Last month's selection was Ministry for the Future; the Nov 15th meeting will discuss Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation.
 - The September Climate Solutions meetup discussed the negative effects of Astroturf; it has a lifespan of about 8 years and is not recyclable. There are other issues with microplastics and runoff. SUNY currently has two synthetic turf fields. The next Climate Solutions meetup will be on November 2 at 6 pm; Joe Londa will share his experience building a net-zero home.
 - Tiffin project: The CAC is sponsoring another wholesale order and will be offering tiffins for sale at the Sunday Open Air Market in New Paltz.
 - Repair Cafes are starting again; they will be held in New Paltz every other month on the third Saturday.
 - Joe Londa has volunteered to update the Town's Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
 - The EV parade for National Electric Vehicle Week took place on Saturday, 10/2. The Community Center location was not ideal and alternative locations will be researched for next year's event.
 - The public comment period is open for a proposal which would bring Greenidge Generation's Seneca Lake power plant back online to support bitcoin mining, using approximately the equivalent of 35,000 homes' worth of electricity. The Climate Smart Task Force will be submitting a public comment.
10. Ted moved, Kenji 2nd to recommend the appointment of Chris Beadle to the EnCB. All in favor. The Town Board can approve this appointment at the November 4 meeting.
11. Yoni moved, Kenji 2nd to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.