

Town of New Paltz  
Environmental Conservation Board  
October 10, 2018  
Community Center  
7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Noel Russ, Joe Bergstein, Kenji Tierney, Rose Rudnitski, Jim Littlefoot, Ted Nitza, Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Susan Wile and Janelle Peotter via telephone.

Public Comments: None

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm

September 12 Minutes approved with one abstention.

#### **PLANNING BD. PROJECTS:**

##### **McDonald's Renovation**

- Limited site improvements
- Refreshing of the brand in compliance with ADA interior and exterior
- Includes pathways and upgrades to menu boards
- Do they have a good dumpster situation?
- What are restaurants doing to keep bears out of dumpsters?
- No comment on this project.

No news re CVS from Planning Bd. Assume they haven't gotten new materials from CVS. Ingrid doesn't see need for to Janelle to attend Oct. 11 meeting, but likely attend Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **Climate Smart Communities (Janelle):**

- Resolution passed last week formalizing climate task force. Big piece is greenhouse gas inventories for local govt. operations, including community.
- Greenhouse gas inventory for the community will require volunteer help. EnCB members?
- Jason West will write community climate action plan with help requested from SUNY students who would get credit as intern.
- Next task force meeting is Monday at town hall.

##### **Green Business Initiative (Janelle):**

- Mike Hein must still sign initiative. Perhaps EnCB should write Mike a letter to go on record that as a town we want this done. Per Ingrid, we could adapt the letter from last meeting. Either a resolution or letter and send letter to the New Paltz Times.
- Mom and pop stores indicate that the bag ban puts undue pressure on them and might cause a problem for low-income families. Climate Action Committee is looking at an initiative to fund bags for some people.
- Last day to sign legislation is a week from Friday. If Hein doesn't sign he can table it until he has more information.
- Recommendation from Env. Policy Bd. is that the existing village law should be replaced by a resolution. There is some interest by the Env. Policy bd. to prohibit all plastic.
- Ted moves to allow Joe to draft a resolution on our behalf supporting recently approved countywide law to be signed by Mike Hein. All (9) in favor. Joe and Janelle will work to draft a simple resolution to be presented to the Town Bd. on 10/18.

##### **Weed Killer Letter (Joe):**

- Drafted resolution and letter to editor re glyphosate with feedback from Ingrid. Letter revised to 500 words sent to NPZ Times. Joe will provide this as statement to Town Bd. next 10/18.
- Letters to retailers like Agway, TrueValue, signed by Jen Roe, Executive Director of NPZ chamber of commerce. Joe suggests sending letter to local landscaping companies with Neil and Ingrid to sign.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Whereas of letter, Rose recommends inclusion of native pollinators, i.e bats and monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, (not just honeybees).
- Janelle suggests sharing this with solar law committee, but a committee hasn't been established yet.
- This is about encouraging, making recommendations, and educating the public – Ted makes motion to send Joe's letter out. All in favor (9)
- Ingrid in favor of sending prior letter as well, to remind arborist businesses about the tree law.

#### **Critical Environmental Areas (Ingrid):**

- Hasn't made much progress. Where to draw the line, literally? Would like it to be based on existing data sets and expertise of prior studies and areas formally adopted by DEC, but they don't necessarily scale down to town level.
- DEC has designated significant biodiversity areas, which line up easily with roads. Other areas were identified in Wallkill biodiversity plan completed back in 2003-2004, but not sure if it was formally adopted by town.
- Town Bd. wants to know critical environmental areas so developers recognize the value in those areas. Does this impact developers application? If so, how? How have other towns have implemented this? SEQR requires consideration of these areas. Instead of having overlay zone, site plan could refer to CEA's.
- We need to have a public comment and public hearing on this, especially if homeowner's property is designated within a certain zone.
- Ingrid is considering bringing this to Neil to discuss. Rose suggests an article in the paper. Important to emphasize this won't stop development.
- Regarding Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), Ingrid has data. It is a matter of re-delineating areas on the basis of the data she has, and getting it to correspond with descriptions. i.e. Wallkill River floodplain (taking 500 yr. boundary and possibly adding a buffer to that to include Kleine Kill), also some grassland areas in foothills would be separate area, or possibly roll that into the ridge area. 1995 comprehensive plan mentioned designating CEAs for tributary 13 watershed, and the Huguenot Historic district.

#### **Awareness and Collaboration Report from Environmental Policy Board (Ted):**

- The village plastic bag law will be effective July, 2019, but there are differences in the Ulster County law vs. village law. The EPB will discuss and make recommendation to village bd.
- EPB is finalizing methane energy study, which will be submitted to village bd. The idea is to use off-the-shelf technology to convert methane to energy. A Reed Bed System study will be recommended.
- Hoping for more volunteers, EPB needs another member for quorum and reached out to the high school for this 5<sup>th</sup> position, always held by a student.
- Passed onto village bd. a review CVS /5 Guys demand calculations, which should be doubled. TransHudson calculations indicate approximate size of 9 households, Ted's calculations indicate 18 households.

#### **Bee City USA; Plains Road Tree Cutting (Rose):**

- We need endorsements from town and village. Fee is \$200 for both, which Rose will donate. Town clubs and organizations should be on board first, i.e. garden club, chamber of commerce, etc. We will email suggestions to Rose re other orgs. i.e. rotary, elks club. Key is getting these endorsements.
- Make inventory of natural resources. Habitat is also an issue. Ingrid suggests creating a Google doc. Org. need to endorse concept that NPZ becomes Bee City USA. We could link to EnCB page. Ingrid needs to check on creating subpage. Could we make FB page?
- Town bd. should be notified sooner than later.
- Rose is unsure whether historic trees on Plains rd. is part of water project. Rose wants EnCB to write letter to Central Hudson re trees.

**EMC update, LED lighting (Jim):**

- LED research and investigation done by Norman Turner with Central Hudson on over 100 poles.
- 4-5 years ago EnCB recommended that Central Hudson install LED in town with an estimated a savings of \$64K yearly. All info given to Susan Zimet at that time. Julie will check with Neil to see where we are. Noel suggests LED's are probably cheaper now and savings more significant. Julie will follow up with Neil and report back.
- Julie will ask Neil about posting signs for hurricane evacuation routes per Jim.
- Ingrid asks Jim to meet with Chris Marx to document roads closed to major flooding. Where have roads been flooded out in the last 15-20 storms and/or for how long? Possibly ask the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**Saw Mill Brook Water Testing (Noel):**

- Need to meet with Tony Falco at Lab Works. Noel doesn't think VOC in running surface water is worth looking for. Noel is interested in only the most critical tests, and to do so in DEC compliant fashion. He hopes to have a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in draft format, which will outline every aspect of sample taking. In order to justify expense to town he needs more info.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Joe wants to work with Ted on solar to incentivize new buildings and parking lots for rooftop solar rather than farmland installations. Tops shopping center represents over 2 acres of rooftop solar.

Meeting adjourned 9:33pm