

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
October 7, 2015
Community Center
7:30 p.m.

Participants: Rhett Weires, Jim Littlefoot, Mike Domitrovits, Mike Merriman, Laura Deney, Libby Zemaitis, Joe Bergstein. Also present is prospective member Ingrid Haeckel.

Agenda

Public comment: No public present.

Joe said that Jason Rosenberg spoke with him and Laura Pettit regarding herbicide spraying in the Central Hudson right of way through the town landfill property, suggesting that mowing might be environmentally preferable. Laura raised the concern that mowing also disturbs wildlife. Jason was looking into whether the town has any say over that right of way.

Review/Approval of September meeting minutes – Mike made a motion, seconded by Libby, to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0, with two members abstaining.

Norman's Tree planting – donations/final cost/watering. As soon as Laura gets bill she will forward it to the group. Bloom says it needs to be watered every week until ground freezes. Volunteers needed!

Planning Board Projects Status:

- 46 Dubois Rd – Comments to the Planning Board / followup re wetlands. Follow up with Planning Board secretary for additional information.
- Update requested by Planning Board re Mohonk Preserve Foothills project.
Norman's letter expressing our concerns was sent in June 2014 to the newspaper as well as to the Town Board. The applicant responded: they did a comprehensive traffic study, invited us to walk the property, delineated the wetlands, and changed plan to have elevated trail go into the Humppo Marsh. The 19-acre split-off lot turns out to be part of a Phase Two which ties in with the River-to-Ridge trail project. Rhett will draft letter.
- River to Ridge Trail – OSI Site Plan/Lot line – The Planning Board is to become the lead agency.
- 391 Springtown Road: Area Variance for setback requirement. Expanding foyer. No environmental impact seen. No EnCB comment.

Discussions

- Ulster County EMC Meeting Report (Jim): Last meeting was a party. No report.

- Floodplain Law proposed Amendments – review/discussion (Mike M & Libby Z): Is 50% damage limit too restrictive? Our law goes beyond the standard state model. Jim – North Carolina has signage indicating a “Flood Plain Zone”; New Paltz should too. Rhett would like an expert to weigh in on what we are trying to accomplish. Libby will continue to work on it.
- New member recruitment – Ingrid Haeckel is present. She recently moved to New Paltz and has a background in environmental biology & geology. She did field biology when working at Hudsonia. Grew up in New England and spent time doing environmental research in Mexico. Experience with habitat mapping and wetlands. Interested in promoting environmental advisory commissions like ours in upstate counties where they are less common.

New Business

MS4 Flood resilience meeting (Joe): Amanda LaValle is the contact person regarding training schedule. Discussions of the group(s) dealing with Wallkill River concerns could be a focus for MS4 as well. **It seems I missed some information here – Joe?**

CVS – Laura spoke to Julie Lillis. The Planning Board is accepting comments on the issue until October 13. Julie would like a letter from us requesting that CVS do a full EIS, and to put it in the New Paltz Times. Apparently CVS responded to our previous letter – Jim will ask Kelly about getting copies of that, and Libby and Laura will then work on letter and circulate draft for approval.

Libby made a motion, seconded by Jim, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.