Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board

December 11, 2019

Community Center

**Participants:**

Ingrid Haeckle (Chair), Ted Nitza, Janelle Peotter, Susan Stessin, Jonathan (Yoni) Schwartz, Rich Whitney, Jim Littlefoot, R. Kenji Tierney

Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Town Board

**Called to order:** 7:06pm

**Approval of Minutes:**

October 16 minutes approved (7 approvals, 1 abstention)

November 13 minutes approved with amendments (6 approvals, 2 abstentions)

**Public Comment:** Ted Nitza(Solar Farm ad-hoc group)

Comments and elaboration on solar project at the landfill

**Planning Board Report**

Monday 12/16 Friendlander Construction site visit (10am)

**Discussion Items:**

Annual Report: Approval with amendments (8 approvals)

General discussion on increasing environmental awareness in the town

2020 Meeting Schedule

 - Discussion of proposal to move start time from 7:30pm to 7pm

 - General agreement to keep monthly meeting on 2nd Wednesday of each month

Habitat Summary Report Presentation

 - Seeking to schedule presentation open to the public

Plastic Bags

 - Report by Susan Stessin

 - Follow-up with Metzger about Plastic Bag Law

 - It is unclear at the state level about how local community laws can interact with the state's law on plastic bags

 - Possibility of passing local laws concerning areas not covered by the state or county statutes (e.g. restaurants, taverns, etc.)

 - Ted Nitza will move forward with writing a proposed law for the town and village concerning plastic bags in restaurants and dry cleaners

Critical Environmental Areas proposal

 - Proposals to do outreach concerning CEAs

 - Letter to the New Paltz Times to be written about the CEAs proposal moving forward

Landfill Solar Project update

 - Town Board announced a discussion with two solar panel companies about the New Paltz solar project

 EnCB Official Statement on Landfill Solar Project: (5 approvals, 2 abstentions)

 - "The board unanimously supports solar development on the landfill and supports the concept of expanding beyond the landfill, contingent on review of the proposal."

Ulster County Community Preservation Act

 - Signed by governor on 12/4/19

**Announcements**:

Seeking new Secretary - On hold

Post-meeting EnCB holiday celebration 9:00pm at Huckleberry

Special Meeting on Open Space Plan Update – December 12, 2019, 7:00pm @ Community Center

**Meeting adjourned: 8:50pm**

Respectfully submitted by R. Kenji Tierney