

Town of New Paltz  
Environmental Conservation Board  
February 14, 2018  
Community Center  
7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Laura DeNey, Joe Bergstein, Noel Russ, Kenji Tierney, Susan Wile, Amanda Gotto (Planning Board liaison) and Julie Seyfert-Lillis (Town Board liaison). Potential new EnCB members Janelle Peotter, Rose Rudnitski, and Ted Nitza (Chair of the New Paltz Environmental Policy board) were also present. Public: Katie Matus from DEC and Rena Bonne.

7:41 meeting called to order

December 13 minutes: Four approved with two abstentions. Minor edits necessary.

Public Comment: Ted reviewed the Village Environmental Policy Board (EPB), which is also recruiting members. The EPB is tasked similarly to EnCb to research policies to help the environment. Current membership: Rachel Lagodka, Greg Van Pukeston, Ted Nitza and Susan Stessin-Cohn with five interns. There is currently one vacancy with two members departing.

Ingrid provided explanation of EnCB's core responsibilities, though EnCB also gets involved with areas of interest per members, we are advisory board for the Town and Planning Boards.

#### **PB 2017-16 SUBDIVISION, 129 PLAINS ROAD**

- Preliminary approval granted in public hearing
- Conditional final approval granted in closed public hearing
- Final documents with revisions to come
- Main issue of public comment is blocking view. It does protect public view-shed from road.

#### **2018 PLANNING, CONTINUING PROJECTS, NEW IDEAS:**

- Ingrid wants to work on natural resource inventory and proposing new Critical Environmental Areas through SEQR. This will not prevent development, but will help alert developers and the Planning Board when projects are proposed in areas with sensitive environmental resources. EnCB could draft proposals for CEAs. We have much data from other completed studies to justify specific areas. Proposing a conservation overlay district might be another policy option that could give the Habitat Assessment Guidelines more durability and strength.
- Ingrid connected with Chair of Lloyd's Environmental Commission who is interested in habitat mapping. Hudsonia, an environmental research institute based at Bard provided habitat assessment training and mapping skills to group that mapped habitats in NE corner into town of Lloyd. He wants to continue this work. Ingrid feels 2019 is more likely due to time commitment. This would be good for a SUNY intern.
- Laura would like to extend plastic bag ban from the village to the town.
- Laura would like to educate public regarding the idling law, possibly through newspaper. Most laws on books aimed at commercial vehicles. How can we enforce this?
- Joe and Noel are guiding town toward green procurement (lower VOC items, i.e. paint remover, disinfectants, triclosan) with six items on list to be replaced, although there is no sense of quantity or cost. If other municipalities use these six items, we could suggest that county make a bulk purchase.
- Promote composting with "earth machine" per Laura Pettit at New Paltz Reuse and Recycling Center – might be able to purchase in bulk and sell at reduced cost to residents.
- Julie suggests a bear education program.

## **UPDATE GRANTS:**

- Green Infrastructure (GI) - New Paltz received a grant from Hudson River Estuary on stewardship planning. Steering committee to oversee grant includes George Profous, Neil Bettez, Ted Nitza, Davide Gilmour, Joe Bergstein and Emily Vail who is with NYSDEC. First meeting was held May 4 with monthly meetings thereafter to advance project readiness and construction of GI with specific attention to GI solutions for downtown /infill locations. Committee chose contractor Barton and Loguidice. Areas in village and urbanized areas of town for possible site selection for pilot GI projects were reviewed. Subcommittee identified preliminary list of fifteen sites where GI could be applied using 5 criteria: public vs. private ownership ; storm sewer overflow benefit; water quality improvement potential ; soil characteristics; previous investigations based on village planner , engineer and other investigations. A field trip to view sites is scheduled for March 15th. Based on field trip observations and other ranking factors three sites (of the fifteen) will be recommended as locations for GI pilot project implementation. GI practices under consideration for the selected sites include permeable pavement, bio retention (rain gardens or bio swales; green roofs and green walls; urban forestry programs to manage storm water; construction or restoration of wetlands, floodplains or riparian buffers; stream daylighting; downspout disconnection; storm water harvesting and reuse. A public meeting to share information about the project is tentatively planned for Wednesday, April 4.

## **MORATORIUM**

- The documents are nearly completed, but we are currently in a holding pattern as nine months have expired and a four-month extension is now in effect, which brings Moratorium to early June. A public hearing on the amendment to comprehensive plan will take place March 1.

## **SOLAR LAW:**

- Discussion is ongoing for a solar law with Clean Water and Open Space commission (CWOSP).
- EnCB needs to schedule our meeting on same day as CWOSP.
- EnCB is looking at Gardiner law as model. Twenty-acre maximum with maximum 50% solar panel coverage. Gardiner law does not specify clear cutting. Needs to be studied on case-by-case basis. The Gardiner Solar Law needs to be read by all members with comments.
- Planning Bd. will address large-scale solar farm first. Community solar is different

## **PIANNING BOARD LIAISON SCHEDULE: (Monday evenings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of month)**

- Ingrid- March 12
- Kenji – April 9
- Joe – May 14
- Laura – June 11
- Susan – July 9
- Jim – August 13

## **Miscellaneous:**

- Jim Littlefoot has worked on traffic study to help assess potential impact of CVS.
- Jim wants EnCB to write letter regarding the traffic study. Ulster County EMC will do the same.
- Chris Marx, Superintendent of New Paltz Highway Dept. did study and wrote letter to EnCB. Ingrid will scan and send to members.

Meeting adjourned 9:47pm