

Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2021

Present: Ingrid Haeckel, Hope Nitza, Ted Nitza, Rose Rudnitski, Yoni Schwartz, Kenji Tierney

Amanda Gotto, Planning Board Liaison
Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Town Board Liaison

Robert Gaudio, Homeland Towers
Vincent Xavier, Homeland Towers

Kathy Preston, Secretary

Absent: Susan Stessin-Cohn, Rich Whitney, Jim Littlefoot

Call to Order: Ingrid called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes: Ted moved, Kenji 2nd to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 17 as written. All in favor.

Rose arrived at 7:40 pm

Homeland Towers: Vincent Xavier and Robert Gaudio of Homeland Towers joined the Board for a discussion of the proposed cell tower project on Jansen Road. Two possible access road routes are under consideration. There was a conversation regarding which option would create the least environmental disturbance. It was agreed that replanting to offset tree loss would be a necessity in either scenario. Camouflage options for the tower were discussed. There will be a public hearing on the project on April 5 with a 10-day comment period to follow. Yoni moved, Rose 2nd that Ingrid draft a letter to the Planning Board recommending the use of the existing path, an offset for necessary tree removal, and enhancing the buffer. All in favor. Ted and Hope will present this letter at the March 22 Planning Board meeting.

Rose will attend the April 12 Planning Board meeting and Kenji will attend on April 26.

Julie arrived at 8:32 p.m.

Ingrid moved, Ted 2nd to appoint Rich Whitney as EnCB chair effective April 1. All in favor.

CEAs: There was a discussion regarding the proposed Critical Environmental Areas. Ingrid suggested that the EnCB move ahead with a single proposal for the Shawangunk Ridge. Julie would like to see the full proposal go forward. It was agreed that the conservation principles should be created as a separate document. The Board will revisit this next month.

Julie left the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Village EPB: Ted provided an overview of current projects.

- The Moriello Apartment complex is in the process of being annexed to the Village and the Village will be handling SEQR for the annexation.
- NPHS students are creating an ecoscape at Village Hall.
- The Composting project at the Community Center is moving along and will tie in with similar Village projects
- A leaf blower ordinance is in the works; the state statute is being reviewed.
- Village EPB website has been updated and new member Jonathan Kolb has joined.
- Congratulations to Hope for her winning entry in the poster presentation division at the 36th Annual Upstate New York Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Her entry, "The Effect of Land Development on Stream Ecosystem Health in the Mill Brook Preserve in New Paltz, NY," will be presented at an upcoming Joint Town and Village Board meeting.
- The Village EPB would like to have a joint meeting with the EnCB on April 13th. Ted and Ingrid will coordinate.

Natural Resources Inventory: Amanda reports that this is near completion and a presentation will be made to the Joint Boards on April 1.

Personnel: Jim Littlefoot has tendered his resignation.

Adjourn: Yoni moved, Ted 2nd to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Preston

EnCB Secretary