

Town of New Paltz  
Environmental Conservation Board  
April 11, 2018  
Community Center  
7:30pm

Participants: Joe Bergstein, Rose Rudnitski, Janelle Peotter, Ingrid Haeckel, Jim Littlefoot, Thomas Nitza, Noel Russ, Kenji Tierney, and Amanda Gotto (Planning Board liaison); Laura DeNey by phone for Plastic Straw Challenge discussion

**Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm**

**Public Comment: none**

**Approval of March 21 minutes: 5 yes, 3 abstentions**

**Planning Board Projects: none**

**Discussion Items:**

Moratorium Update: Rte 299 Gateway committee website has the final report. We should review and make final recommendations. Moratorium ends July 13. Do we want to present our comments at the public hearing? Add this to the May meeting agenda.

Plastic Straw Challenge: Laura DeNey and Joe Bergstein have been working on a letter to the Editor for the New Paltz Times titled New Paltz, You Suck! They want to kick off a challenge with local restaurants, bars and other businesses to promote elimination of plastic straws or replacement with eco-friendly options. See the Van Jones video online. Malcolm came to EnCB two years ago with the straw challenge issue – he is still involved. Idea floated to create a sticker for businesses that agree to participate. The challenge will start on Earth Day with volunteers meeting at the Commissary at 2pm and handing out flyers in Town. Rose volunteered to print copies of the flyer in color. Suggestion to reach out to Lisa Mitten at SUNY to see what is possible on campus.

Plastic Bag Ban Update: Ulster County Legislature currently reviewing two different bills. One will be selected in about two months with a vote in late May planned. This bill would supersede all local bag bans. Laura and Joe will draft a letter of support to the county and state.

North Putt Traffic Study: Jim Littlefoot is meeting Chris Marx on April 12 to discuss further. He will see how results compare with the Gateway Committee recommendations and work on drafting a letter.

Climate Smart Communities grant update: Janelle provided an overview of her work so far. She has assumed the Town Climate Smart Communities Coordinator role. She has been in contact with Simon Gruber, who helped the town apply for the \$38,000 grant. CSC Steps: Make the pledge, appoint a coordinator. Develop a plan, increasing community use of sustainable energy, Climate smart solid waste disposal practices. Planning for adaptation to unavoidable climate change. Informing the public. Committing to an evolving process. A kick-off meeting is planned for May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Natural Resources Inventory work group: The Town proposed to create a natural resources inventory (NRI) as part of the Climate Smart Communities grant. However, no funding was appropriated to that task. A SUNY intern may be covered, however. Ingrid wants to establish an NRI work group, with volunteers taking on thematic components of the NRI. A student will

most likely help with mapping. The Town also has a GIS license, so we can do some mapping. Ingrid wants to create an interactive online map with tabs for the different resources inventoried. She will send a draft outline around to EnCB members soon. Village EPB should participate.

Awareness and Collaboration Report from the Village's Environmental Policy Board (Ted) – EPB meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

- a. Interest in Expanded Plastic Bag Ban – EPB interested in updating the Village's ban. Rachel and Susan are drafting a letter about what has worked well in Village to share with county and statewide efforts.
- b. Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity Report – includes trying to understand what's in the pipeline in terms of approved developments.
- c. Collaboration/Liaison with NP School Corp.
- d. Methane to Energy Study

Bear Education: Ingrid submitted letter to the Editor of New Paltz Times to raise awareness about bear activity and avoid wildlife conflicts. Will sent to Village and Town to be posted to Facebook pages.

Green Procurement update

New Paltz Green Infrastructure Capital Improvement Feasibility Plan: Joe shared overview of the April 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

Scenic Hudson solar symposium update and continuation of solar law discussion: Ingrid gave overview of the symposium and passed around Scenic Hudson's new booklet/siting guidance, available online. She set up a Doodle Poll for a meeting in May with a NYSERDA specialist to assist with developing our solar zoning law. Ingrid will work on drafting a list of our concerns regarding large-scale solar installations and circulate prior to the next meeting so that we can finalize it in May.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Next meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30