

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
May 3, 2016
Community Center
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Ingrid, Mike M., Noel, Libby, Jim, Mike D., Andy, Joe and Dan Torres

Public Comment: None.

Approval of April Meeting Minutes (both meetings): Motion to approve the minutes as is made by Mike D. Seconded by Andy. Unanimously approved.

Planning Board Projects Status: Mike Merriman; Planning board meeting started with Mohonk Gatehouse parking lot. Some audience members thought it was well thought out, while others thought it should have an EIA done with traffic as a concern.

River to Ridge also had speakers for and against this project. Hearing was closed. OSI discussed the trail details. A concern about the speed on Butternut Road and crossing the road to get from the trail to Pine Road. Planning Board will perform a site visit. Noel will ask if an EnCB member can attend. Accessory apartment was reviewed and no mentionable comment.

George Lithkow asked about a grant for transformational improvements. NYS has monies available for improvements in Zone 3.

- Mike D. sent request for joint meeting to Mike C. for joint meeting. Meeting set for May 23rd at 7:00PM in the Community Center.
 - Discussion topics.
 - Habitat Assessment Guidelines. They should be posted on the town website. How is the PB using them? Is there a formal process for using them?
 - Can the EnCB help the PB with project assessments using GIS? The EnCB has some basic maps we could share.
 - How is the Open Space Plan being used?
 - Can we help the PB use the tools that have already been developed?
 - Will Dave Clouser be at our meeting? We'd like to know about the stormwater law and what we are doing leading up to that.
- Keith Libolt lot line revision. No comment from EnCB.
- D&D Woodworks PB 16-04 New Building plan. Adding 14 new parking spaces and two new buildings (barn like structures). There are some wetlands near the Thruway. Need to verify the buffer requirement.
 - Confirmed that a 50' is required for the smaller wetland on the southern side of the lot. It appears that there is 75' buffer already so that one looks OK.
 - For the Larger Wetland on the North side. It is a National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetland and it looks as though there is already parking within the 100' buffer requirement. The paved area on the drawing appears to also be within the 100' buffer.

The edge of the building to the NWI wetland is approximately 275' away. The proposed building is on the North side of the existing building, closer to the wetland. It is currently unclear how close the new parking will be to the NWI wetland. Can the building department have this inspected by our wetlands inspector? Can the applicant submit a comprehensive map detailing the wetlands and proposed buildings/parking with distances delineated? There is inconsistency between the application which states 13 parking spaces to be added while the drawing shows 14 spaces. The application states that because of the flatness of the property that no environmental protection plan is required; (M) on the site plan checklist. We recommend best practices be used for stormwater management to control run off to the adjacent wetland. We also encourage landscaping to be performed with native plantings because of the increased impervious surfaces being added and this building's proximity to NWI wetlands.

- Twin Star Orchards Site Plan Application, Short EAF, North Ohioville Road.
 - Looks primarily like the addition of 133 parking spaces. No comment.

Discussions:

- Herbicide. What should we do about it? It's being used near tributaries. Are there laws that prohibit this practice near waterways?
- NRI discussion. Review the type of info in the town's open space inventory and plan and outline the need for updated info and description of the resources. Ingrid has been working with Andy to see if an update is needed for New Paltz. There was a NRI performed in 2003 by AKRF. The maps are dated and not very good. In 2006 the town did an open space plan. It's nicely done, but we are not sure how it is being used today. The maps aren't very detailed and need to be updated. Newer maps are available. The Swangunk Ridge (circa '08-09) biodiversity green assets joint partnership also provides natural resources inventory.
 - Should we have these updated?
 - We could use a better GIS friendly accessible tool incorporating these natural resources in one place.
 - Rosendale has a nice set of maps for public viewing. Could use as reference.
 - This seems like a good topic to be integrated in to the town master plan.
 - How should we proceed? Seems like a great discussion for the joint planning board meeting.
- Ulster County EMC conference at Omega this weekend.
 - Noel's homework assignment. Will fill out a form on how the EMC can help us.
 - Jim brought in information on the Wallkill Valley Land Trust and some of the work they are doing.
- Website updates. None.
- Using Slack for communication (<https://slack.com>). We will try to use for this month's communication.

- Climate Smart Communities. Cornell Cooperative Extension will be at Vassar to discuss climate smart communities. June 4th 9:00 – 12:30. Libby will be presenting. Implementation grants are available.
- Grant Writer Status. Neil is going into utilizing Mark Blauer for grant writing.
- FOIL status. Dan put in a FIOL request last week to Jeff Logan. Jeff has refused to answer Rosanna's request for the document. There are two options according the public committee on open government. The EnCB could file an article 78 law suit against the town official, Jeff Logan. The EnCB could file a complaint against Jeff Logan, with the Ulster County DA for willfully withholding public documents in violation of the freedom of information law. The board is pursuing this in order to get on record the criticisms made during that meeting or get a full retraction of the accusations made of the EnCB. The EnCB has decided to attend a town board meeting and read a letter requesting that Jeff Logan comply with state law releasing the document that was requested in the recent FOIL inquiry. We have requested this document for over six months.

New Business:

Ted Cruz dropped out of the presidential race.

Motion to close the meeting made by Mike D. at 10:05. Seconded by Noel. Meeting adjourned.