

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
May 6, 2015
Community Center
7:30 pm

Participants – Mike, Rhett, Libby, Laura, Joe. Also present are Dan Torres, Town councilman, and Mike Merriman, prospective member.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Agenda:

Public Comment – Mike Merriman was a member of the EnCB in the early 1990s, is interested again, used to work for DEC doing environmental reviews, etc.

Review/Approval of April Meeting Minutes: Laura made a motion to approve the April minutes as amended, seconded by Joe. All in favor 5-0.

Norman Turner Recognition/Memorial tree planting: committing to the plan. Laura met with Tom Nyquist, he is fine with the spot chosen by Jim. Tree must be flood-proof. Early fall is a better time to plant as less watering would be needed.

Planning Board Projects Status:

- Wildberry Lodge discussion of height variance and footprint reduction; visual analysis supplement added to DEIS (response from their engineer – Libby): Still no response.
- 25 Elliots Lane clearing and grading (Letter by Jim with comments and tree advice): Jim not present.
- CVS revised proposal (Mike D): It is still missing some pieces, are we expecting an addition? They did not submit the long-form EAF update, and other responses are incomplete. Mike will review more carefully if indeed it is final. Dan thinks there is a Planning Board hearing on it on Monday. A petition has been started against CVS by Julie Lillis and other concerned citizens.
- 70 North Putt Corners – site plan for addition: east side of road right on Thruway; zoned light industrial. Adding 4 parking spaces. No EnCB comment.
- Jewett family farm property on Huguenot St.: Looking for road frontage variance from 150 to 100 feet to accommodate lot. No EnCB comment.

Discussions:

- Parking Lots subcommittee/MS4 designation coordination (Joe): Town clerk knew nothing about the scheduled report to the DEC due June 1. Joe emailed Dave Clouser April 17 to inquire, who got back to him May 4 saying he will prepare report by June 1 of the minimal steps that have been taken, hoping DEC will be merciful given the problems the Town Board has had this year. One issue is public outreach and another is training highway department employees; neither has been initiated. Mike M: a fine is not likely, but an audit is. EnCB could have a role designated by the Town Board to work directly with Clouser on implementation/compliance. Libby: We could have a joint presentation to the boards on MS4 compliance by Emily Vail. Other communities are also lagging, so we could work together. Joe will ask Don Kerr about having a joint meeting with the village Environmental Commission, will try to shoot for date of next meeting. Mike D: Dave Clouser should attend. Who is accountable for schedule? Propose sending letter to Supervisor Zimet saying that we do not want the Town to be subject to unnecessary fines. Someone should be designated and roles clarified. If she wants to make EnCB responsible, then we can include the issue on the agenda monthly and get progress updates from Clouser. Joe will craft e-mail to Zimet and circulate for comments. Mike would like EnCB to have the authority to inspect construction sites. Rhett, on the other hand, thinks we might not want the associated responsibility.
- Grant writer: The pedestrian committee (Bill Weinstein) sent a letter of support for a grant writer to add to the one from the transportation committee.
- Wallkill River Symposium of April 23rd: Libby heard that it went well, with constructive discussion.

New Business

Libby is giving a talk next Wednesday at 7 pm at the Reformed Church on Huguenot Street about climate change, including projections for NY State.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laura and seconded by Mike. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.