

Town of New Paltz  
Environmental Conservation Board  
June 14, 2017  
Community Center  
7:30pm

Participants: Laura De Ney, Joe Bergstein, Andy Ashton, Ingrid Haeckel, Noel Russ, Jim Littlefoot, and Susan Wile

Meeting called to order 6:04 pm.

Public comment – Kim Kimble sent Joe an email regarding the old trees on Plains Road, which are in jeopardy of being cut to replace a water pipe. We do not know how much pipe requires replacing and if there is documentation of a plan to replace the pipe. Due to the shortened meeting, Laura suggests postponing this discussion until next month. She also suggests postponing approval of May's minutes until next month.

- JAMES TAYLOR PERMIT: All approve permit for James Taylor to cut his sick tree on Henry W. Dubois. Laura will let him know with the suggestion of planting mother chestnut trees.
- MERCIER FARMSTAND: Located on an abandoned apple orchard on Route 32 near the High School, the Mercier Farmstand is being leased on 55 acres. The site plan presented is minimal. The 28x24 foot structure will have electric, heat and air, and operate from May – December. Water to irrigate the site will be pumped from wetlands with 25,000 feet of drip line, which is cause for concern. We are unsure if this is a town wetland and how deep the pond is. It appears to be DEC wetland. Ingrid will map it and comments will be forthcoming per Laura. According to Jim, the applicant must have the water tested and DEC permits may be required. The soil should be tested as well.
- RITE AID FAÇADE RENOVATION. Is it possible to consider solar?
- BIRD SANCTUARY: Laura wrote Tom Nyquist a letter, but has not received a response regarding the bird sanctuary path. The new owner wants to erect a fence, which will impede access. We are unsure if HHS will allow a fence to be built by new owner. Jim Littlefoot will go back in the files to see if plans exist. Adverse possession? There has been an easement by necessity since 1987.

- HABITAT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE (HAG): Old guideline merged with new guidelines and rationale for some things changed. Ward asked to define “large.” He also asked to include a glossary. A site plan is anything considered commercial. There is concern that a great deal of cost and expense would be added to small applications:
  1. Guidelines need to be established on a *threshold* as to *when* to use HAG.
  2. What size projects do we want the guidelines to apply to? i.e. only for major subdivisions?
  3. For subdivisions involving 3 or more lots EnCB can stipulate a meeting is required.
  4. Is there a maximum square footage that would trigger a HAG? The SEQR threshold is a non-residential project less than 4,000 sq. feet.
  5. HAG should only be necessary when SEQR is triggered. For subdivisions, we will recommend HAG for 3 lots or more. Planning bd. could still indicate a need, even for a small project and could require or waive HAG at their discretion.
  
- TREE LAW: Ingrid communicated with Stacey Delarede to make sure we’re passing along violations of tree law. Per Stacey, no one has ever been fined for this violation. Stacey has offered to come to next meeting for further discussion. Perhaps EnCB can include guidance on website about restorations. 27 letters went out to tree cutting services. Kathy sent letter we drafted for Neil Bettez to sign. There was an article in the NPZ Times. Neil is on board to have the PSA on town website.
  
- ULSTER COUNTY MTG UPDATE: Environmental Management Committee state-wide conference to be held Nov. 3 & 4. Dept. of Health visited 800 sites for Styrofoam and all are in compliance. Rosendale will change their lights in village and town for significant savings.
  
- NEW PALTZ PROCUREMENT: Joe sent draft statement to town bd. regarding environmental procurement. Jean Colluci handles central procurement for NPZ, which acts according to a Kingston 2013 document in which a resolution was drafted for towns to purchase goods a specific way.

Laura makes motion to adjourn 7:01pm.