

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

Participants: Ingrid, Laura, Mike M., Noel, Libby, Jim, Mike D.

Public Comment:

Malcolm Condon proposal on Banning Plastic Straws. Malcolm, a NPHS student, spoke of his concerns about the use of plastic drinking straws, the majority of which end up in the ocean. He will be asking local restaurants to pledge to not give out straws unless asked, and to switch to paper straws. He will acknowledge participating businesses in a letter to the editor of the New Paltz Times and give them certificates. Is asking for EnCB endorsement. Mike D made a motion, seconded by Mike M, to support Malcolm's efforts with a letter written by Laura. All in favor.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the May meeting minutes was made by Mike D. Seconded by Laura. Motion passed, all in favor with one abstention.

Planning Board Projects Status:

Joint Planning Board meeting discussion. - Mike D. read the minutes. Mike Calimano is targeting another meeting in 5 to 6 months. Ingrid: The PB pointed out the logistical problem that the schedule of our meetings and theirs means that some of our comments would be received too late to be considered. They have requested we attend their non-workshop meetings in order to be present when there are applicants. Mike Calimano said it would be okay to submit initial points of concern and formalize the comments later. If there are big things we want to know about, make those concerns known asap. Mike D says this would be a good opportunity to use Slack to informally communicate. We could have special additional meetings to address large projects. Ingrid brought up Habitat Assessment Guidelines and whether they were being used. The Planning Board did not seem to be aware of them but are in favor of reviewing them and setting implementation guidelines. For example, for projects going thru SEQR, the PB can require those guidelines and include them on a checklist. Gretchen Stevens, biologist from Hudsonia, would be willing to meet with us about how to update the guidelines at our meeting next month. It would be good if someone from the PB could also attend that meeting. Noel: The PB asked what requirements do we want to see on the application to make sure it is complete. Anything we can provide in terms of maps, etc. would be useful. Mike D: Let's start with a copy of the current application and go from there.

New Projects for review: None received.

Discussions:

- NYS Model Solar Energy Law Toolkit. Comments to the Planning Board. Mike D. has distributed the 37pp document and made it available on Slack and welcomes member comments before next meeting. It is well-written in layman's terms but covers only photovoltaic systems. Put out by CUNY, it is more applicable to urban areas. It is good for roof-mounted type but needs some revision for ground installations. Ingrid has concerns about regulation of larger scale solar arrays that have environmental impact. Mike D: one of their goals is to streamline solar installations by exempting them from site plan reviews etc. He also noticed a couple of vagaries or possible inconsistencies that warrant close reading. Should align with our master plan and zoning. We don't want to streamline in sensitive areas, so we need to require permit

process in such cases and identify those areas. Jim: also we would need to address decommission of installations no longer in use more specifically: removal, recycling etc. Mike D: maybe we could be the agency responsible for reviewing the permits. Grievances would be addressed to the Planning Board.

- Springtown Rd - a couple of driveways at lowest point of floodplain have been raised several feet. Mike D has photos. Will send to Stacy Delarede with a note of concern, although the new laws appear to allow this against our recommendations.
- NRI maps Ingrid: do we want to pursue this project? One possibility is to get an intern to help us create them. We could write a report to go with it ourselves or hire someone, perhaps with a Greenway grant. County planning dept can maybe print maps for us as they did for Rosendale. Ingrid is not in a position to put in much time on the project during the next several months, especially without a Comprehensive Plan in place at this time. But we feel her input is needed for this effort, so we might want to table it for now.
- Streetlights. Has the town pursued anything from the Mid-Hudson Streetlight Consortium or from Courtney-Strong on the grant effort? Dan Smith inquired if he could assist.
- Ulster County EMC conference at Omega. Noel will distribute notes from the conference, which was basically focused on the way forward for EMC. There was a lot of enthusiasm. They are looking to assist CACs with mapping, grantwriting, etc. and to work more closely with legislature. Jim: they are going to get a grantwriter and share him or her. Have to convince legislature to hire someone.
- Using Slack for communication (<https://slack.com>). We will try to use it for this month's communication. Added the Solar Energy Toolkit to Slack. #solarenergylaw
- Good Housekeeping Stormwater Guidance Document (on Slack #general). Part of MS4 outreach and education to be passed out to local businesses, put on website etc
- Laura reports that the committee proposing a moratorium on development of the New Paltz "gateway area" - Route 299 from Putt Corners to Ohioville Rd. - will be presenting it to the Town Board next Thursday. Will let us know what happens.
- Grant Writer Status: Tabled.
- FOIA status: Tabled.

New Business:

Joe Bergstein's resignation. He will formally submit it to the Town Board. He would still like to be involved in other ways.

Noel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike M. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.