

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
July 19, 2016
Community Center
7:30 p.m.

Participants: Jim, Mike D, Mike M, Ingrid, Andrew, Noel. Also present is Tess Webb, prospective member, and Stana Weisburd, Planning Board liaison.

Public Comment: None

Approval of June Meeting Minutes:

Guest Speaker: Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia gave a presentation about Habitat Assessment Guidelines and open a discussion on what we could/should do next. working with municipalities for several decades purpose of offering guidelines to applicants to make sure the info is being presented in a consistent way so the PB has what it needs to make decision and carry out obligations to the SEQR process. If done early in application process can help reduce cost to applicant of redrawing plans etc, smoother and quicker for all parties. When should PB require a Habit at Assessment? If near wetland or stream or flood hazard area. Maps are readily available to the town, can even be accessed during meetings online. Ingrid - individual parcels can be viewed on the county website and layers applied from various maps and printed. Mike D - we should have links to these on our website. Or within a "priority biodiversity area" in the Northern Wallkill Biodiversity Plan or a Significant Biodiversity Area determined by the DEC, or "important area" for rare plants or animals according to the NY Natural Heritage Program, or Ulster County Habitat Core. Or if the project is expected to have a large environmental impact. Mike M - benefits the PB to have standards and maps to avoid arguments from applicants about the necessity of environmental review. Mike D - need to update technology used by the town. 3 day workshop coming up in Sept.

Gretchen looked at Apr 2006 NP HA guidelines and made some revisions, to make it shorter, less redundant, more organized. Got it down to 7 pp Hudsonia general guidelines model is simpler, 4 pages.

Important for it to be user-friendly both for towns and applicants!

There was discussion about how the town would verify the quality of the assessment and qualification of the professional filling out the report. There is no certification applicable. Mike will post the documents online and we can discuss at our next or an upcoming meeting and make recommendations.

Planning Board Projects Status:

Planning Board meeting update - Mike D. attended the July 11th meeting long discussion about signs in NP. Stana is new to the PB and is our new PB liaison.

New Projects for review: Updated in Slack, Jim grabbing everything in our box.

1. Ferris Woods Apartments. 5 proposed buildings With 12 units each. Brouck Ferris Blvd. off of South Ohioville Rd. Behind college diner. The site has wetlands. Ingrid will send initial comments to the PB citing a few concerns about wetlands and recommending a Habitat Assessment. Further formalized comments will be submitted later. Mike will put it on slack and discuss next meeting. Deadline for comments Aug. 22
2. Updated Mohonk Foothills project Tabled
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p1s336pni8m81i9/AACTdovRQfvWHbenLnQIup-na?dl=0>
3. Masters Touch Church (file on Slack, #planningboardapps)

Discussions:

- ☐ NYS Model Solar Energy Law Toolkit. Comments from Mike and Ingrid sent to the Planning Board and Neil Bettez.
- ☐ Springtown Rd - a couple of driveways at lowest point of floodplain have been raised several feet. Mike D sent Stacy Delarede photos. She is looking into it.
- ☐ 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. (Dan Torres?)
- ☐ Ulster County EMC. Note sent by Neil to renew Jim's status.
- ☐ Gateway update. Tabled.
- ☐ Grant Writer Status: Tabled.

New Business:

New member recruitment (Joe's replacement). Joe had difficulty attending Tuesday meetings.

Mike M made a motion to adjourn seconded by Andy. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.