Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board

September 11, 2019

Community Center

7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Rose Rudnitski, Rich Whitney, Yoni Schwartz, Susan Stessin, Julie Seyfert-Lillis (arrived 8:30pm), Kenji Tierney (arrived 9pm)

**Meeting called to order 7:35pm**

**Public Comment: none**

**Approval of EnCB August 14 Minutes:** approved 5-0

**EnCB Planning Board Projects:**

* Planning Board liaison report – TransHudson 9/9/2019
  + Tree permit exempt if approved site plan
  + EST siting, special meeting set with DOT for Sept 17
  + Bats – tree cutting after Oct 31.
  + Applicant contends porous pavement not suitable for current plans based on amount of fill.

Gateway Rezoning

* Public hearing Sept 19 at Town Board meeting.
* Went through zoning updates
* Planned resort
  + What distinguishes hotel from resort?
  + PRO allows 250 rooms (Wildberry only proposing 140)
  + Would allow 5 stories for 25% of building
  + Even if allowed in new zoning, Planning Board can deny, or ask for more.
* Reiterate comments:
  + 65-foot buffer. Mention health concerns. Air/noise
  + Climate crisis – need for alternative energy production. CCA does not apply to commercial accounts (only residential/very small businesses)
  + Should require LEED as minimum for PRO
  + Concerned about potential size of hotel allowed under PRO; resulting parking and traffic concerns
  + Height of building/water tower – visual impacts
* Wildberry draft EIS
  + tabled
* PB Liaison: Sept 23: Kenji; set schedule for October-December
  + Sept 23: Kenji
  + Oct 15: Rich
  + Oct 28: Susan
  + Nov 14: Yoni
  + Nov 25: Rose
  + Dec 9: Ingrid or Ted?

**Discussion Items:**

Bee City USA

* Rose wants committee to write pollinator plan for Town/Village
* Laura Wyeth did one for campus
* Climate Smart – shrink your lawn –did some research on laws that prevent lawn conversion. Village has law requiring people to keep lawn mowed – 3”. Town law says 10”
* Village passed bee ordinance.
* Is a committee needed to write plan? Will need to also work on implementing pollinator-friendly plantings
* Is there a beautification committee?

Tree Conservation Law

* Should Tree Law be amended to require permit for tree removal on site plans?
* Amanda – could be difficult because site plan might change before final planning board approval
* Ingrid – amend language to reference EncB recommendations per Tree Conservation?
* Update tree survey requirement to include any trees within Tree Law jurisdictional area
* Use pre-conceptual meeting to discuss tree conservation.

Critical Environmental Areas proposal

* Ingrid made updated draft; still needs to draft narratives.
* Digitized out much of the developed areas around margins of areas.
* Question about inclusion of area around landfill.

Village Environmental Policy Board update

* tabled

County Environmental Management Council update

* tabled

Climate Smart update

* Please complete survey if you haven’t
* Sept 16 –CS Taskforce meets at 7pm
* Student-led Climate Strike on Sept 20. Good line-up of speakers including Jen Metzger
* Sept 21 –Climate Summit – sign-up ahead of time.
* Complete Streets Training – Sept 23

Solar Committee update

* tabled

Plastic Bag Ban

* Susan discussed with DEC and county staff.
* Jurisdiction over plastic bags is vested in the state. The state’s law takes precedent.
* Jen Metzger’s office - Not clear –it’s a gray area.
* Local laws should be grandfathered. DEC will have final jurisdiction.

**Announcements**:

Recognizing Habitats Workshop: Friday, Sept 20 (Cornwall), 2-5pm

Need to reschedule Oct 9 meeting (Yom Kippur)

Meeting adjourned 9;47pm