**Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board**

February 12, 2020

New Paltz Community Center

**Participants:**

Ingrid Haeckel (Chair), Janelle Peotter, Rich Whitney, Jonathan Yoni Schwartz, Amanda Grotto, R. Kenji Tierney, Rose Rudnitski, Susan Stessin (via phone),

**Called to order:** 7:34pm

**Public Comment:** Ray Lunati & William Oldakawski (SUNY-Journalism Student)

Ray Lunati spoke to the EnCB board about his concerns regarding having his properties included into the proposed CEA designation. In particular, he expressed his concerns that the CEA designation would affect his property rights by adding another layer of regulation. The chair, Ingrid Haeckel, and other members talked about how CEAs do not create new regulations, but seek to inform local development projects. The chair promised to send more information about the CEA proposal to him.

**Approval of EnCB January Minutes: Approved (6 approvals, 1 abstention)**

**Planning Board Referrals:**

Tree permit application - 288 Rt 32S: Approved with a recommendation to replant further back with a tree from the DEC tree list **(6 approvals, 1 abstention)**

Verizon 5G Cell Tower -- 60 Jansen Rd location

 Concern about its encroachment into the Intact Animal Core. If the siting were to be moved slightly to the north, while remaining in the cleared area, its impact might reduce. Jonathan Yoni Schwartz volunteered to write a letter to state these preliminary comments.

February 24 PB meeting liaison – Susan Stessin

March 9 PB meeting liaison – Jonathan Yoni Schwartz

March 23 PB meeting liaison – Rose Rudnitski

**Discussion Items:**

* Critical Environmental Areas proposal update (Ingrid) - General discussion about upcoming public hearing and general community reaction to the proposal.
* Community Preservation update (Ingrid): CPP is moving ahead with grant money to do an Open Space survey in March. Much more activity to come in summer.
* Natural Resource Inventory (Amanda): Update about the steps to move forward. (Ingrid abstains). Call for volunteers to help interview the consultants. Rose Rudnitski and R. Kenji Tierney volunteered.
* Town Board interests - Interest in more research on single-use plastic and anti-idling regulations. Janelle Peotter will consult with Iris Bloom about single-use plastic
* Climate Smart update (Janelle) - Climate Smart is waiting for New Paltz to receive Bronze certification and is hopeful that it'll happen soon. There are an enormous number of events, including the just started book club: 1st book: *We are the Weather* by Jonathan Foer and the 2nd book is *On Fire* by Naomi Klein. Beyond that, a variety of community events, including meet-ups, have occurred and are ongoing.
* Bee City USA (Rose) -- Still working on pollinator plan for the Town and Village.
* Village Environmental Policy Board update (Ted) -- Postponed to next meeting
* County Environmental Management Council update (Jim) -- Postponed to next meeting
* Plastic Bag Updates (Susan) -- Postponed to next meeting

**Announcements:**

Wallkill River Watershed Alliance Stormwater/MS4 Training - March 4, 9am-12pm, Kingston

Conservation and Land Use 101 Webinar on Stormwater Management -Feb 26, 12-1pm

**Meeting adjourned**: 9:31

Respectfully submitted by R. Kenji Tierney