

Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board

Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2021

Present: Ingrid Haeckel, Hope Nitza, Ted Nitza, Rose Rudnitski, Yoni Schwartz, Susan Stessin-Cohn, Kenji Tierney, Rich Whitney
Amanda Gotto, Planning Board Liaison
Kathy Preston, Secretary

Absent: Jim Littlefoot
Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Town Board Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

Ingrid moved, Kenji 2nd to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2020 as written. All in favor.

Ingrid moved, Rich 2nd to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021 as written. All in favor.

There was no one present for public comment.

Planning Board:

Trans-Hudson (CVS) has requested variances from the ZBA, to waive the second-floor residential requirement and to allow for a drive-through. There was a discussion regarding ZBA public comment policy. Amanda shared that there will be a public hearing on March 10 and public comment will be allowed then. She suggests that any submissions be made that day. Ingrid moved, Ted 2nd that Ingrid re-work and present the July EnCB letter for the public hearing. All in favor.

There was a brief discussion regarding the EnCB's role as an advisory board.

Albany Post Road: Albrecht subdivision: the map was received 2/17/21; this proposal will be on the 2/22 Planning Board agenda. It was agreed that it might be useful to offer comments although the EnCB has 45 days to do so. Volunteers are needed to study the map in tandem with the NRI maps to see what resources are present on site. It was noted this is not a Type 2 action. Rich and Ingrid will work on a basic letter to submit to the Planning Board highlighting the environmental features of the property.

Eugene L. Brown Drive: Libolt subdivision: Ingrid will prepare draft comments.

NP Sporting Clays wetlands violation: Ingrid will follow up.

Rt. 32: Moriello Annexation: The Village has been declared lead agency for the annexation; the Town will be an involved agency and the EnCB can provide guidance as the project progresses.

Planning Board liaisons: Yoni volunteered to attend the 3/8/21 Planning Board meeting. Ted and Hope will attend the 3/22/21 Planning Board meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding upcoming Planning Board meetings.

ENCB Chair: Ingrid will stay on through the next meeting and transition leadership to Rich for the April meeting.

Wetlands Law brochure Ingrid has drafted a new summary for distribution through the Building Department. It was suggested that two different versions, one to hand out in hard copy and one with hyperlinks for posting on the Town website, would be a good solution.

Critical Environmental Areas update: Currently waiting for the Planning Board to submit comments to the Town Board.

Village EPB update

- Mill Brook Preserve buffer concept: Michael Zierler has offered to assist with research. The Comprehensive plan predates the Mill Brook Preserve, so a comprehensive plan amendment may be needed.

Climate Smart update

- NRI project update: Amanda and Janelle are working on the next draft of the report and closing in on a final version and presentation to the joint boards.

Bee City update: progress is currently at a standstill but the EnCB would like to pick it back up again. Rose will reach out to the NPHS Participation in Government advisor, Bonne Masseo, for potential student involvement.

Tree Law review: Tabled until the next meeting

EnCB members are encouraged to attend 4 hours of training per year. Info was sent out regarding an MS4 stormwater quality presentation on 2/24.

Ted moved, Rich 2nd to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Preston, EnCB Secretary