

**Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board**  
**January 20, 2021, 7:30pm**

This meeting was held via teleconference and livestreamed at <https://youtu.be/BCv12hOyMVA>  
Meeting ID: 833 2471 6819

**Agenda**

**Start Time: 7:33**

**Participants:** Ingrid Haeckel, Rich Whitney, Ted Nitza, Hope Nitza, Rose Rudnitski, Jonathan Schwartz, Susan Stessin, Amanda Gotto, Janelle Peotter, Riley Poisson (ECB Intern, SUNY-New Paltz Student)

**Approval of Minutes for December 16: Postponed until February meeting**

**Public Comment: None**

**Wetlands Law Brochure Presentation & Discussion**

There was a presentation of Wetlands Brochure in development by Riley Poisson (Environmental Policy Board intern, student at SUNY-New Paltz). Discussion followed with suggestions for improvement.

**Planning Board:**

- Vegetated buffer appeal -- Rejected by the ZBA. Waiting to see the revised full site plan before commenting on the any plans.
- Wetlands law discussion recap -- On 12/17/20, there was a small meeting about the Wetlands Law and its enforcement. The current system (e.g. stop work orders, orders to remedy, wetlands inspector site visits, PB appeals, judge ordered fines, etc.) is complex resulting in gaps in oversight and accountability. There was a discussion about who is in charge of monitoring the violations and the progress of applications and their remediation.
- PB Liaison schedule: Jan 25: No EnCB Liaison, Feb 8: Jonathan Schwartz, Feb 22: Rich Whitney

**Discussion Items:**

- Critical Environmental Areas proposal update - Presented to the Planning Board on 1/11. Received follow-up questions and will be discussed at an upcoming PB meeting. Ingrid will revise the proposals to eliminate confusing surrounding the CEAs. To move forward, a variety of steps need to be taken. Waiting for direction from the Town Board.
- Village EPB update
- Village discussion of CEAs with renewed interest for Mill Brook Preserve and Harcourt Preserve, prompted by development proposals near the Mill Brook Preserve. Don Kerr is charge of examining these issues.

- EPB & Planning Board will have official discussions on the role of the EPB
- New initiative to look at protecting drinking water sources in New Paltz. The "Source of Raw Water" Committee will be looking for volunteers to serve on the committee as part of DWSP2 (Drinking Water Source Protection Program)
- There is a proposal seeking to limit or ban leaf blowers in the Village
- Riley Poisson (intern) is looking to improve recycling efforts in the Village and Town.
- The Village EPB is looking for another permanent member. We remain meeting remotely until June 2021.
  
- Climate Smart update
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Town of New Paltz is being updated and presented in 2/18.
- Seminar on NY Statewide initiative for increasing composting at restaurants and supermarkets.
- Next Climate Smart meet-up is February 2nd.
- Book Club meeting is Feb 16. Braiding Sweetgrass is the next book to be discussed.
  - NRI project update
  - Many volunteer hours were invoiced. The final map and refined draft of the report expected towards the end of February.
  
- Bee City update
- Two projects in town that will be in the application: one at the Town Hall and one at the community center. Seeking to have the Town Board to pass the resolution to make New Paltz a Bee City. There is a campaign to make the Town and Village Bee Cities.
  
- Website Update -- Ingrid updated the website (Annual reports, CEA proposal, tree law, etc.). Members are encouraged to look at the redesigned website and make suggestions.
- Membership -- Update on member Jim Littlefoot. Rich Whitney will be taking over as chair in March.

#### **EnCB Projects:**

- Tree Law review - Tabled until next month

#### **Announcements:**

- Natural Resources Inventory webinar, Jan. 26, 1-2:30pm

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:20**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Kenji Tierney (02/05/2021)**

***Approved February 17, 2021***