

Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board

Minutes of the meeting of May 19th, 2021

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Ted Nitza, Janelle Peotter, Rose Rudnitski, Yoni Schwartz, Susan Stessin-Cohn, Kenji Tierney, Rich Whitney

Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Town Board Liaison
Kathy Preston, Secretary

Rich called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. There was a discussion regarding in-person meetings versus Zoom. It was agreed to continue to hold the June meeting remotely, but revisit after that point.
2. Ingrid moved, Ted 2nd to accept the April 20 meeting minutes. All in favor.
3. Ted moved, Susan 2nd to approve the April 21 meeting minutes. All in favor.
4. Kenji attended the Planning Board meeting for 525 Albany Post Road and read EnCB comments. Yoni met with the owner on a site visit and reports that he seems to be attentive to environmental concerns.
5. New Paltz Apartments Annexation: Several members expressed concern over potential wetland, habitat, and infrastructure issues with the proposed project. It was noted that while what is currently under review is the annexation, these may become issues once the project is underway, and should be anticipated.
6. Ingrid updated the group on the CEA proposal, for which the first public hearing was held on May 20. There will be a continuation of public hearing on June 17, and members were encouraged to submit comments and spread the word.
7. Climate Smart update: The Climate Smart Coalition held a meetup on The Story of Plastic, and the Climate Smart book club continues to meet monthly. The last selection was “Animal, Vegetable, Junk” by Mark Bittman, and next month’s selection is “Under a White Sky” by Elizabeth Colbert. A Zoom garden info exchange happens on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Megan Wolfe has joined the Task Force.
8. NRI Project update: Ingrid moved, Rich 2nd to meet with Rick Lederer-Barnes, the GIS consultant, to run through the online map and licensing process. All in favor. Ingrid offered to help with training and Rose volunteered to attend as well.
9. Plant Palette (Henry W Dubois Project) Ingrid moved, Ted 2nd to accept the palette for the Henry W Dubois Road Improvement Project. Ingrid will reply on behalf of the EnCB.
10. Susan reported that road work is still underway on Horsenden Road.

11. Ted gave the Board an update on the Village EPB. There will be a Bee City workday at Village Hall on May 29 at noon. The Gofundme goal of \$3,500 has reached \$3,100 as of 5/11. Village Board member Alex Wojcik is working on a leafblower law. There is currently a bill in the State Assembly that would grant localities the right to legislate pesticide use, the EPB will follow this. The next Village EPB meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Ingrid moved, Yoni 2nd to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.