

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
January 7, 2015
Community Center
7:30 pm

Participants: Jim Littlefoot, Norman Turner, Rhett Weires, Laura Deney, Libby Murphy, Perry Goldschein, Mike Domitrovits
Dan Torres, Town Board Councilperson

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Agenda:

Public Comment: Eric Stutt said that he appreciated the opportunity to speak at last month's meeting as the issue is important to him and his neighbors. He would like a copy of Norman's letter and was told he can request it from the Planning Board next week.

Review/Approval of November and December Meeting Minutes – Mike made a motion to approve the November minutes as amended. Seconded by Laura. All in favor with one abstention. Laura made a motion to approve the December minutes as amended. Seconded by Norman. All in favor.

Ethics Forms/Discussion of Ethics for voluntary board participation. The forms were distributed. These must be returned within 15 days or lose Board membership.

Planning Board Projects Status:

- 108 Route 208 letter regarding steep slope permit: Norman has e-mailed copies of the letter but a change had to be made because Dave Clouser again reviewed the project and concluded that it does not meet the requirement for 1-acre SWPPP, so that was taken out. Libby: There is an MS4 plan for New Paltz, but it has not been fully implemented yet. We recommend the permit not be granted at this time as there are many questions about whether proper standards can be met under the current plan. Mike made a motion to approve Norman's letter as amended. Laura seconded it. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0. The letter will be distributed to the Planning Board in the next couple of days.
- EnCB liaison report of Planning Board meeting (Laura): EnCB came up at the meeting several times. Rhett will attend the next meeting.
- Mohonk Foothills Addendum; intended use of 19 acres?

Discussions:

- Sewage Treatment Plant on South Putt Corners Road ["Sewergate" and related issues]: Norman: The school should have spoken to the town first. Jim: why do they want to build

a sewer plant in that area? Dan: They say they have been wanting to use that area for a long time, but not right next to the high school and it was only one of several options discussed over the years. Is this what we really want for our community? Mike: It has been zoned light-industrial since 1960, but times have changed. He would like to see a study that shows that an increase in industrial zoning and population brings down taxes. If you compare this area with Westchester County, that would appear not to be the case. Dan: my opposition is that the cart was put before the horse. We were not informed before land negotiations began. Libby: With Startup New York, no taxes are paid for 10 years. Dan – the state does not make up for that; it is a flawed program. Mike: It is good for NYS but not necessarily for local municipalities. Dan: 33% of our town is already off the tax rolls. Due to the presence of the college it is about 60% in the village. Jim: couldn't the town pass a law that you must pay sewer tax even if you don't pay other taxes? Dan: state law will supersede local law. Libby: how are we funding it? Dan: we are looking at a federal grant.

- Ulster County Environmental Management Council Meeting Report (Jim): The governor's office gave the ok to go with the Pilgrim Pipeline. The company went to homeowners asking to survey properties. Those who refused were revisited by two officials saying that if they did not allow the surveying we will take it by eminent domain. This happened in Hurley and New Paltz among other places. The route basically follows the NYS Thruway corridor.

Jim has map of Ulster County open space if anyone is interested.

- Parking Lots subcommittee/ MS4 designation coordination (Joe): Joe not present.

New Business: None.

Norman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mike. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.