

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
March 5, 2014
Town Hall
7:30 pm

Participants: Libby Murphy, Jim Littlefoot, Laura Deney, Mike Domitrovits, Rhett Weires, Tod Westlake, Norman Turner, John House Wilson

Also present is Susan Zimet, Town Supervisor , and Joe Bergstein, both a former and prospective new member.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Agenda

Public Comment: none

Review/Approval of December Meeting Minutes: Laura made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Seconded by Norman. All in favor with 3 abstaining.

Status of New Members: Tod Westlake's application process is complete and he is now a fully fledged member. Joe Bergstein will submit his resume. Welcome Tod and welcome back Joe!

Membership Update: Swearing-in Reminder/Ethics Forms (Rhett): Anyone reappointed for this year should re-swear in. All 8 current sworn-in members need to fill out form for 2014 if they have not already done so. Rhett is updating membership board list.

LED Lighting/Grant Opportunity: Supervisor Zimet's input/comments: Jen Metzger of the Rosendale Town Board wants to get New Paltz and other towns together to look into LED lighting. Randolph Horner, solar consultant, has contacted Susan about funding available to turn both the town and village of New Paltz to LED lighting. They are now manufactured in Highland. He wants her to tour the facility like Rosendale has. Susan would like EnCB to follow this up. She has spoken with Paul Hansen, Town Supervisor of Highland, which has its own lights and district and must do its own repairs, so they switched to LED at a cost of \$40K. Jason West was working on getting all solar lights for Main Street to replace the old lights. Susan thinks LED might be better. Norman was in touch with the head of Central Hudson's LED program last month; they are not ready to sign an installment agreement with New Paltz. We have to use their poles. Norman will get back to him and ask about the current status. Susan asked if Norman could also follow up with Jason West. Norman: Solar lights are more complex. Susan asked if Norman would tour the plant in Highland with her. Libby mentioned that interior lights are eligible for an upgrade grant. Rhett designated Norman and Tod to follow up the LED issue and Libby to follow up on interior lights.

Susan mentioned other projects such as the village sewer system, which the DEC wants moved. The fire, police and emergency departments want one unified Emergency Center, and the town is looking at a new big space where the community center, justice court and town hall could all be together. She is not sure the town would have money for LED lights. Norman mentioned that NYSERDA has a program that will partially fund LED street lights but it may not be available much longer.

Consolidated Funding for Solar Project/Proposed Local Law for Large Scale Solar Energy Systems: Rhett distributed Town of Tonawanda zoning document for reference.

Susan said that people are calling about wanting to do solar farms in New Paltz. One would be in the Duck Farm area (20 megawatts) and there are 2 others. Tonawanda has a solar farm zoning law which is being referred to by New Paltz Town Board to create our own zoning for solar farms.

Electric Vehicle Recharging Infrastructure Amendment: Rhett distributed draft. Susan: we need spots for electric charging stations, Ground work is being done; the Planning Board is going to streamline the planning process. At the public hearing guy came who does large percentage of these charging stations, he says a company is giving money to establish these Lithgow CVS maybe could include an electric charging station. Another possibility could be the hotels directly off the Thruway. Susan requested that EnCB get back to the Town Board with thoughts and comments about electric charging stations.

Jim has looked into above-ground gas tanks for new installations. Below-ground tanks pollute groundwater. DEC inspects tanks once a year. Norman asked Libby to research this so it doesn't go to the bottom of the list.

Planning Board Projects Status:

- Wilmorite / Park Point : Public Comment Status from December 9th meeting, and our comments. Tod reported that Sean Griffin, representative for Wilmorite, said that we are not operating in reality and “we need to be adults” several times.
- Trans-Hudson Management Corp./CVS Application to the ZBA for set-back and signage variance; no environmental issues seen.
- LP Builders 2 Lot Subdivision at 105 Route 208: near Hawk Drive just past VFW. Plans were looked at. Two one-acre lots, wooded and steep. They have to comply with MS4 standards; have to go to Planning Board. Mike: we should comment to them to make sure they are aware of MS4 requirements. Runoff goes into swampy area. Any commercial development disturbing one acre or more or any residential development disturbing 5 acres or more must receive a SPDES permit and comply with NYS stormwater standards including preserving natural areas and incorporating green infrastructure.

- Looking Good - Use Variance Application for 216 Route 32 North (former dental office): This is a zoning board issue as probably residential not commercial. Would have to get variance re-granted. EnCB does not see any environmental issue.
- ENCB liason report of Planning Board meeting: The next volunteer will be Laura Deney.

Discussions:

- Ulster County Environmental Management Council Meeting Report (Jim): Jim gives Carol printouts concerning all the grant money that goes through this board. They want to connect rail trail from Wallkill to Hurley and received several million dollars from the state, NYC and the Dyson foundation. Chris White, Ulster County Planning Department (340-3383) wants to connect it to Big Indian. If railroad will remove the ties from the water they have been under since the hurricane, they want to widen the rail trail from Kingston to Phoenicia to include a path and a walkway for horses.

New Business

- Susan brought up New York Rising, a government initiative giving federal money to areas devastated by Hurricane Irene flooding. Julie Robbins is the local coordinator. New Paltz and other towns in Ulster County are eligible for \$3 million to “build back better” to increase resilience against storms. It can be spent on sewer treatment plants, flood prevention strategies, Wallkill River tributaries, bioswales, rain gardens, use of permeable material where possible, protection of wetlands and green space, public education, filming/mapping, road re-engineering, stormwater management, Libertyville & Springtown Roads emergency plan, renewable energy, community gardens, bikepaths, etc. New York Rising has town group meetings and then meet on a county level, and are now probably doing cost/benefit analysis and will choose and announce projects in May or June.

New EnCB laptop: Mike will get voucher for purchase.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Libby. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.