

APPROVED MINUTES

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
March 4, 2015
Community Center
7:30 pm

Participants: Rhett Weires, Mike Domitrovits, Libby Murphy, Laura Deney, Joe Bergstein, Jim Littlefoot. Also present is Dan Torres from the Town Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Public Comment: Don Kerr, chair of the New Paltz Environmental Policy Commission, is interested in increased collaboration between village and town on environmental issues. Both the town and village are Climate Smart Community members. Joe brought in the NYDEC certification manual for CSCs. New Paltz is one of a small handful of communities chosen to receive technical assistance through the EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Community program for flood resilience. The village planning board will be holding a workshop sometime this spring. EnCB is welcome to be involved. There are a lot of steps to take; the grant is a good place to start working together. Don also brought up that April 23 SUNY will host “The Future of the Wallkill River” symposium. Signage will be going up warning people about coming into contact with the river.

Review/Approval of January and February Meeting Minutes: Joe made a motion, seconded by Mike, to approve the January minutes as amended. Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention. Libby made a motion, seconded by Mike, to approve the February minutes as corrected and including insert by Joe. Motion passed 6-0.

Board Openings: with Norman Turner’s resignation, there are now two openings on the board.

Recognition of Norman Turner: Exchange of thoughts and ideas for honoring his years of vital service to not only the EnCB but also to the community. Dan will order a plaque through the library. Libby: we could also write a letter from the Board. Dan brought up a tree-buying program as well as talking to the Shade Tree Commission to plant a tree in his honor. Laura will look into that. A plaque on a rock overlooking a wetland would be nice.

Planning Board Projects Status:

- Wildberry Lodge: discussion of height variance and footprint reduction; visual analysis supplement added to DEIS (tabled from last meeting). Tabled again because Libby has not heard anything new from their engineer.
- 187 Plains Road Subdivision at Taliaferro farm (amended plans?): confirm no EnCB comment.

- 25 Elliots Lane clearing and grading (donkey?) (Letter by Jim): Jim says to cut any larger circumference trees will be a swampy mess. He will write letter about need for tree preservation.
- CVS revised proposal: Compliance with village codes re signage, etc. Back to Planning Board on Mar 9. Three test wells on site being abandoned? Dan will probably attend meeting and can email Mike about planned changes.
- 283 Springtown Rd (Kira Kinney, organic farmer): Area variance for higher deer fence. No comment.
- 403 Main Street – Demolition of 87 Motel: Mike asked that since there is over one acre of disturbance; should we review their SWPPP? Is DEC involved? Joe: wouldn't we want to recommend maximum reclaiming of demo'd material for beneficial re-use rather than landfill. Joe will review that and comments will be forthcoming.
- Mohonk Preserve: printout of digital submission. 19 acres being subdivided off is apparently to be used for single house with no further subdivision. Good thing considering the area.

Discussions:

- Logging operation on Springtown Road – Wetlands Law and Ag. & Markets Law. 69 acres for sale. Stacks of logs everywhere. Looks like a clear-cut not being sustainably done. An agriculturally-zoned and agricultural-use would get an agricultural exemption. Does it apply here? Logging is defined in the law but not listed as a regulated activity which represents a hole in the law. Rhett has written to ask building inspector what is the designation for this parcel (registered as agricultural farm?). It may be completely legal but bears looking into.
- Sewage treatment plant (no response from Planning Board Chair Mike Calimano yet). Dan reports that the tie-in with the village would seem to be a win-win situation. A resolution was passed to continue to explore this option.
- Parking Lots subcommittee/MS4 designation coordination (Joe): Tabled.
- Recommendation to the Town Board regarding a grant writer (Joe): Availability of funds shrinking but there are still a number of possible grants. Dan brought up the idea of splitting the cost of hiring a planner between town and village. We want a full-time professional. Joe will revise letter and submit for approval and input.

New Business

- Libby: Hudson River summit is April 16 at the Poughkeepsie Grand View Hotel. Should register and attend.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laura and seconded by Mike. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.