

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
March 1, 2016
Community Center
7:30 p.m.

Participants: Mike Domitrovits, Joe Bergstein, Ingrid Haeckel, Andy Ashton, Libby Zemaitis and Laura Deney. Jim Littlefoot attended from 8:25 p.m. Also present is Neil Bettez, Town Supervisor and Noel Russ, prospective member.

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

Public Comment: None

New Membership: Noel Russ is present and interested in joining our board. Mike D. distributed his resume. He is a hazardous materials expert and avid hiker who has lived in New Paltz about a year. Previously he lived in Marlboro where he was part of the Climate Action Committee and has experience with MS4 compliance.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Mike D made a motion to approve the February minutes. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

Planning Board Projects Status: Jim Littlefoot will bring a pile of documents to review.
Link to Planning Board Projects <http://www.townofnewpaltz.org/planning-board/pages/current-projects-under-review>

- River to Ridge Trail – Draft plans of Feb 2016. Open Space Institute. We will review and comments will be forthcoming. Submitted Feb 8. Mike D. has questions about who will inspect the work to enforce compliance with requirements, would like EnCB to be authorized to do so. Neil: EnCB could write concerns to code enforcement officer.
- 3 Fieldstone Drive – setback variance, putting in a garage. No EnCB comment.
- 437 Plutarch Road – accessory apartment. No EnCB comment.
- Mohonk Foothills Project - ???

Discussions:

- Joint EnCB/EPC - Should EnCB and Village EPC join forces? Neil: currently EPC's role is to be pro-active about big environmental issues like plastic bags, fracking bans etc. in the village only. Tim says there is some overlap but certain mandates are different. There is trouble getting village residents to serve. Goal would be to allow each entity to do more by expanding. We are

a board, EPC is a committee. Both would still exist but there would be coordination and the opportunity to participate in both. Stormwater issues are a good example of needing both town and village involvement. Mike D made a motion, seconded by Joe, for the EnCB to continue to explore the benefits of joint EnCB and EPC. All in favor 6-0.

- MS4 Brochures: Post to website? (Joe) - Joe spoke to someone from Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition which involves multiple municipalities. As part of public outreach, the stormwater ordinance can be posted on the EnCB website once it is finalized, and informational brochures specific to various business sectors (home repair, auto shops, restaurants, etc.) can periodically appear in the paper and be dropped off at town businesses and at the Chamber of Commerce. His draft letter to the editor of the NP Times was emailed to EnCB members. Libby made a motion, seconded by Laura, to approve Joe's letter as amended for submission to the NP Times. All in favor 7-0.
- Elliot's Lane - Possible wetlands violation. It was brought to Ingrid's attention that a resident at 300 N Ohioville Rd., who does a lot of excavating, put in a gravel road next to a wetland area that is not on the official wetland map. Was the road approved by the planning board? Ingrid will email Stacy and ask whether they got a permit. Our current wetland inspector is Bagdon Environmental.
- Review of the Town's MS4 law drafted by David Clouser. Deadline to adopt it is the end of this month. Neil would like EnCB input before submission to attorney next week. This would probably not be the final version of the law, but it can still be amended later. He would also like EnCB to look at Ithaca's stormwater law, which may have already undergone legal challenges. Joe's comments (based on an earlier version): 1) under discussion of different conditions, disturbing "one or more acres of land" should be amended to cover village properties that are smaller. some are close to the water and uphill. 2) Re 3rd party certification – it should be added that contractors need to abide by the law in writing. 3) Penalties – the fines seem too low and at least there should be built in an incremental increase. 4) Ordinance mentions that a stormwater management officer or delegate will do site inspections 5) Definitions – not all terms defined in the list are used in the document. Neil: there are actually 2 documents and 2 laws that have to be passed. One is specific to illicit sewage discharge. He will distribute both documents to all and accept EnCB comments.
- Tree Planting - Ryan Trapani, forester for the Catskill Forest Association, is interested in planning some mother trees (<https://nysufctakingroot.wordpress.com/2016/01/15/participate-in-the-reintroduction-of-the-american-chestnut-by-simply-planting-a-few-nuts/>) as part of the American Chestnut reintroduction program here in New Paltz (tentative).
- Ulster County EMC Meeting Report (Jim) EMC has hooked up a weekend retreat for this summer with Omega Institute – an EnCB board member is welcome to attend with free room and board.

New Business:

Libby mentioned that on March 29 at 6:30pm in Millbrook there will be a free MS4 training session held by Cornell Cooperative.

Ingrid: Town Planning Board would like us to arrange a joint meeting. Great idea. Mike D will contact Mike Calimano,

Joe made a motion to recommend to the Town Board that Noel be approved for EnCB membership. Seconded by Laura. All in favor.

Who will attend the next Planning Board meeting? Libby will ask Mike M. Perhaps we can make up a schedule and sign up in advance? Let's at least add it to our agenda every month to make sure someone goes as often as possible.

Mike D. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Andrew. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.