

FINAL

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

Participants: Libby Murphy, Jim Littlefoot, Laura Deney, Mike Domitrovits, Rhett Weires, Tod Westlake, John House Wilson, Joe Bergstein.

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

Agenda

Public Comment: none

Review/Approval of April Meeting Minutes: Laura made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim. Motion passed with all in favor.

Official Appointment of Secretary: Mike made a motion to pass a resolution appointing Jeanne De Tar as EnCB secretary, to be paid \$12 per hour, in an attempt to conform to new guidelines for payment of vendors by the town. Libby seconded the motion. All in favor. Jeanne and Rhett signed the written resolution.

Planning Board Projects Status

- Wilmorite / Park Point: Planning Board is at standstill with applicant. Town wants full taxation, otherwise the project is dead. At issue now is “home rule” - a local authority's right to zone and govern development vs. the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency. State legislation has expanded the IDA's power to specifically apply to Park Point-type development. It is almost certainly going to court since the town has killed it. Tod asked if the issue of IDA vs. town rights has happened elsewhere. Rhett: The IDA won't sue; Wilmorite has to bring Article 78 to get approval. John commented that it was odd that housing for a nonprofit college is considered industrial development.
- Novella's Catering: (outdoor landscaping/gazebo/cooler) improvements to existing facility behind Frito-Lays consisting of exterior upgrades and awnings. Nothing will be visible from Thruway except dumpsters. No environmental impact or concern seen. No comments from EnCB.
- Wildberry Lodge Long Form EAF: 356,000 sq ft. total. The property is documented as being poisonous with high levels of arsenic. A past EnCB letter concerning the Crossroads project addressed the toxicity; Joe will ask its author, former EnCB member **Rob**, if he still has the letter. John noted the developer has 100-ft buffer wetlands in its plan already. Sewer treatment will be near road. Tod commented that he project will

negatively affect people living on South Ohioville Rd. as it will destroy the viewshed. It will be bigger than anything except the college. John would like to see it smaller and smarter. Traffic will be a nightmare. Jim proposed that a road count be done during the summer. Mike said that should be done by an independent 3rd party paid by the town. John commented that zoning amendments will be needed to make this happen. Laura said that the Planning Board had asked if the developer could get their own entrance off Thruway to keep traffic off of Route 299. Joe brought up noise pollution. The developer states that it will recycle 90% of the water used. Laura noted that they run Splashdown, the water park on Route 9. Either existing public wastewater facilities will be used, with the developer paying for tie-in and upgrades, or they will build their own and discharge to an unnamed tributary. Mike: we need clarification on that. Joe, John: We need to walk the property. John: There are 13.5 acres of impervious surface parking lots; a third of the entire development. We need details on possible runoff to other properties. Mike: we can talk about being pro-active and changing town codes for the future – create your own energy, etc. We should recommend a town planner! John will create a google doc to share so all members can comment on our list of concerns. Mike will ask for a PDF of the developer's document. Rhett: We have 45 days. This project will take years. Let's get broad environmental concerns on their radar: traffic, sewer, pesticides, water safety.

Mike made a motion that we summarize our concerns in a bullet-point list to submit to the Planning Board. Seconded by Laura. Motion passed with all in favor. We will further elaborate after seeing draft sketch and want to be included in draft EIA discussions. John will do the bullet list and Tod will turn it into a draft letter which will then be voted on. This must be done prior to our next meeting which is two days after the deadline. We should also ask a representative, the developer's environmental planner, to come to a meeting and talk to us.

- 90 Old Rte 299 Lot Line Revision: Laura: A woman left one of two adjacent properties to her cats. Family built a house and wants to change the lot line. No comment from EnCB.
- LP Builders 2 Lot Subdivision at 105 Route 208 (Update from Dave Clouser - Norman) Tabled due to Norman not in attendance.
- “Looking Good” Special Use Application Will there be driveways in and out? Are they going to create new parking? Mike: it looks like they are just working with what is there and that the concerns are being addressed by the Planning Board.
- EnCB liaison report of Planning Board meeting: Laura felt it was productive to be there. Lagusta Yearwood wants increased communication with EnCB via emails. Regarding Wilmore, EnCB was not much included or communicated with because so much was litigation not involving us. We should feel free to email them with questions, etc. Tod will attend the next Planning Board meeting and Libby will attend the one after that.

Discussions

- Ulster County Environmental Management Council meeting report (Jim): Jim picked up 22 grants, gave all to the highway department. There is a lot of money to fix the Wallkill

river and tributaries available. There is a pruning grant, and one to look at insects that affect trees. There is a June 9 training session at SUNY Ulster for Planning Boards, who are required to have 4 hrs training every year. Some changes and overlays have been made to the maps, which include geology, landscape and waterways. John asked if he could look at those online. Jim said Laura Petit would know

- Wallkill River Update after 3/24 Riverkeeper meeting: Jim: They are going to do pharmaceutical testing on the Wallkill tributaries and on all the discharge from sewers. The idea is to separate human from cow feces to determine what area the contamination is coming from. DEC is involved. Some residents are not happy with the disgusting smell of the river. 2013 results show the water to be completely unsafe even for watering community gardens. Tod said that Dan Torres brought up at the meeting why there are no signs warning people about the water. Seems like a good way to educate people. Jim says the mayor doesn't want signs. Jim said that the village and town have to put in for these grants. John said that all we can do is recommend that they do that.

New Business

- Libby mentioned that the wetlands law passed. Cheers!
- Libby attended a webinar on how to encourage green infrastructure in cities. It had some great ideas to do some long term planning. Lancaster, PA, did a lot of work integrating green policies into city code targeting capital improvements, stormwater etc. A way to link this with the Wallkill river is to be a model for water clean-up. Joe asked if she could contact the planner and get access to their documents to use as boilerplates.
- Joe asked how often do we have representatives at Town Board meetings. It would be a good opportunity for us to raise awareness if we can get on NP TV. For example, we could inform the public about the dangers of triclosans used in antimicrobial products. He would like to try to get antimicrobials on the agenda for a Town Board meeting. He will circulate something to the rest of the EnCB. John said it may be easier to comment as a public person than to get it on the agenda. Rhett: we can make a proposal to get it on the agenda. Joe: There is a lag between the actual use of such harmful products and their regulation that results in a runaway problem.
- Tod mentioned that he lives on Bruce St. in the Cherry Hill neighborhood next to Moriello farm. Two men who looked like contractors came into his yard looking for discharge into people's yards and claiming to be from the village, although the property is located in the town. He felt they were lying and that possibly something had been spilled. It is against the law to claim to be an official, perhaps even a felony.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rhett seconded it. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.