

EnCB Minutes 11/4/2014

Call meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Attendees: Rhett, Jim, Norman, Mike, Laura, Joe, Perry

Plastic bag ban (Dan Torres)

Received an email from Jay Peltz (Food Industry Alliance of New York), informing Dan that they are suing Croton on Hudson, and asking that NP refrain from implementing the ban on plastic bags "because it is unconstitutional". Town might hold off on resolution pending result of the existing lawsuit. Has not been determined yet. Rhett mentioned that it might be better to implement a tax on bags? There is a grant for promoting reusable bags. It could be worth looking into.

October meeting minutes. Some minor corrections. Rhett took notes and will feed back information and send it to Mike to be uploaded to website. Motion to adopt the minutes, as adjusted during discussion, made by Norman, seconded by Laura. All in favor, passed 7-0.

There are three new tree applications.

12 VanAlst submission. Deferred until December meeting.

81 Plains Road submission requesting permission to remove a tree that hit power line. Looks like a Norway spruce? Motion to allow the removal of tree made by Mike D. Seconded by Rhett. By a vote of 7-0 motion passed to allow removal of tree.

4 Karen Court submission. These trees look particularly healthy. Called to a vote. All in favor of allowing the removal of the trees. Vote of 4-0 with 3 abstentions against allowing the removal of the trees. Rhett will write the letter.

Solar discussion and the impact to our approving a tree removal application. The EnCB could make special dispensation for tree removal if a building permit is in place for the installation of solar panels. We could also make a recommendation that new trees be planted of a specific variety. Joe asked if there would be any clarification of the law so that solar (building permit) could be a prerequisite for granting the tree removal. Norman suggested that the existing law allows us to stipulate re-plantings upon granting a request. A time frame (~1 year?) should also be specified on the permit.

9 Laura Drive side yard setback variance. No comments.

Wildberry Lodge. Chief engineer (Jane Samuelson) plans to attend the December meeting. Libby will be here for that meeting. Mike asked if soft copies were available for distribution. Mike will send a note Mike Calimano requesting soft copies of the DEIS Scoping document.

Planning board update (Perry). Planning Board Chairman considering joint meetings with Town Board and the EnCB.

Ulster ENC (Littlefoot). Elisabeth Broad from Catskill Mountain Keeper. She has found a lot of grants on solar passed onto the Ulster County planning board who pass it along to whomever. Towns are looking for SRECs MEGA (Municipal Energy Grant Alliance). Woodstock will dedicate 13 acres to solar. Central Hudson has a program to replace lights with LEDs. Program pays for ~70% of private pole lighting. They

have about \$2M for this program in Ulster County. Water in Kingston. Could take water from reservoirs. Going through the environmental review process.

Town code prohibits putting a parking lot in front of building. CVS is petitioning this code. Norman volunteered to write a letter to the ZBA on behalf of the EnCB objecting this variance. Traffic and aesthetics were of immediate concern.

Parking lot subcommittee (Joe). Storm water management program MS4 designation requires New Paltz to proactively make laws to improve storm water quality. Other municipalities have implemented MS4 legislation that could be leveraged to help New Paltz deliver its plan. Comment that the EnCB should be brought up to speed on where the town is on its compliance with the MS4 program. This would help to reduce duplicate efforts and drive efforts where there might be gaps. Joe will be reaching out to Dave Clouser to see if he is available to meet with us to discuss the status of the Town's Storm water management plan, perhaps shedding a little light on the Town's schedule for amending the code and maybe getting his views about how the parking lot subcommittee can help in this effort. Not sure if there is a cost implication for his time. Either way, if there is a lack of compliance there will be a financial penalty to the town, ie. The taxpayer.

Motion to adjourn at 9:15. So moved.