

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Town of New Paltz  
Environmental Conservation Board  
April 5, 2016  
Community Center  
7:30 p.m.

Participants: Mike D, Mike M, Libby, Ingrid, Laura, Andy, Noel. Also present is Dan Torres, Town Board Member.

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m.

### Agenda

Public Comment: None

### Guest Speakers:

- Daniel Smith: Re Municipal Streetlight Grant (Courtney-Strong, Inc.) Offering technical assistance with installation because New Paltz was a signatory on a municipal light grant. That would be the village rather than the town. Laura will find out who he should talk to. Mike M asked what is the payback time. Daniel answered that if you own the lights and are just swapping them, 2-3 years. Should result in 1/5/to 1/3 the current usage.

- Ryan Trapani: Catskill Forest Association, Topic – Chesnuts American Chestnut Foundation. Noted that ash trees are currently dying in this area. Happened years ago to chestnut trees. SUNY ESF close to finding enzyme that is resistant to blight. Will be genetically altered in the seed. ACF wants people and municipalities to plant unaltered “mother” trees that will then cross-pollinate with altered ones when they are ready. Good for well-drained sites where red oak or maple would grow. Can plant spring or fall. Will help plant for free.

New Membership: Noel Russ is now a member.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes: Mike D made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, seconded by Laura. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

### Planning Board Projects Status:

- Mike D. sent request to Mike Calimano for a joint meeting.
- River to Ridge Trail: Draft plans of Feb 2016. Mike D did not get a chance last month to review them in depth but will do so this month.
- Mohonk foothills project: Tabled until next meeting.

### Discussions:

- Ingrid met with Fran Wishnick, who is interested in a Natural Resource Inventory to be part of the updated Master Plan, but budget is limited. Town has an Open Space plan adopted in 2006. Prior to that, the Open Space committee created an inventory, which she brought a copy of. It

should be included on the website. We can update it first and can reference Green Assets publication (Shawangunk Biodiversity Partnership) to put things together to create our own. It should be our responsibility to maintain that kind of information. Other towns, such as Rosendale and Wawarsing, have them. It is possible to apply for funding for assistance, get interns, etc. Ingrid is willing to work on maps.

- Libby will come up with a rotation list for members to attend Planning Board Meetings. Mike D will ask Mike Calimano if we can get a regular seat at the meetings as an advisory board.

- Since we have not yet received Town Board Member Jeff Logan's letter responding to our letter of recommendations regarding the CVS application, Dan will put in a FOIL request for it.

- Website updates. Mike put an "MS4" link on the EnCB web page including Joe's letter to the NP Times, etc. Would welcome suggestions from members on how to improve website to make it more informational and user-friendly, etc.

- Ingrid found a version of EnCB Habitat Assessment guidelines from years ago and wondered if it is still in use? It should be as it forces applicants to be more detailed, standardizes the procedure and helps streamline the process. Should put on website.

- Climate Smart Community certification program – Libby met with Neal Bettez and Dan Guenther of the Climate Action Coalition. New Paltz is on its way to becoming certified, qualifying for grant money, etc. A Natural Resources Inventory is important for this too.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike D. and seconded by Mike M. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.