

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
April 2, 2014
Town Hall
7:30 pm



April 2nd EnCB meeting minutes

Participants: Libby Murphy, Jim Littlefoot, Laura deNey, Mike Domitrovits, Rhett Weires, Tod Westlake, Norman Turner, John House Wilson

Also present is Dan Torres and prospective member Joe Bergstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:40

No public comments

March Meeting minutes were approved with all in favor.

Shoprite will be doing facade renovation. No environmental issue seen on this, no comment by this board.

90 Old Route 299; lot line to acquire 1.8 acres--there could be a potential wetland issue. The board is unclear as to why they want to do this. Question about what is the minimal size for subdivision, is it definitely 5 acres in this area? EnCB would like to ask the planning board for further explanation before commenting.

"Looking Good"--owner of My Market would like to get a special use variance on this location as a natural makeup store. Stormwater should be considered. Are they planning on adding impervious surfaces, parking lot spaces etc? We may like to recommend pervious material or recommend gravel, which is less expensive. The entrance appears to be off route 32 where the speed limit is 55 mph, this could be dangerous. EnCB comments forthcoming.

Laura was unable to attend Planning Board meeting due to illness, but will go this upcoming month.

LP builders 2 Lot subdivision at 105 route 208--revised EAF and plans sent, but not new storm water plan. It would be nice to see this via digital file-- Dan said he will follow up on this. Norman is concerned about water runoff on steep property and will speak to Klauser about it. Comments will be forthcoming.

Jim report on Ulster County Environmental Management Council Meeting Report--many grants are being written and he will report back.

Discussions--

Rhett mentions a letter from a Forest and Fire Ecologist Gabriel Chapin, who gave a report to the EnCb before, and asks if we may be interested in hearing more about wildland fires and controlled burns at Mohonk, Minnewaska, and Sam's Point as a presentation. EnCb is very interested and would like to plan it for a couple months out so that we can announce it and the public can attend.

EnCB is not discussing Wilmorite/ Park Point today as nothing concrete appears to have happened this month.

Wildberry--potentially on Plessner property. Jim tried to ask for a road count, but has not seen it yet--Wildberry will affect traffic. Laura, Dan and Jim all agreed it was a good presentation made at the Town board meeting and it seems like there is a lot of interest in the project. Wildberry said they will avoid the wetlands on property and will consider green construction and materials.

New Business--

Norman is researching information on energy efficient LED street lights--the town has 2 alternatives, 1) later in the year, Central Hudson says would change 5% of bulbs per year to LED (so it would take us 20 years to do them all). 2) town buys lights from Central Hudson, then we change them to LED ourselves and pay a "pole tax" to Central Hudson. This upfront cost is significant for town, and once it's done, we own them and will need to maintain them. The benefit is that it would halve our electricity bill, and we could buy lights that meet the aesthetic of our Town.

Dan on last Town meeting:

Rupco Green Jobs, Green NY- Dan will be energy liaison and would like to see 10% of the town to have free home energy audit. He wants to set up time to show people how to sign up. Dan is excited about this and will keep us informed and involved.

The town board meeting on the 24th will include a Riverkeeper presentation on water quality in the Wallkill River. Dan wants to get local municipalities together to figure out what laws we can make to stop polluting it and how to branch out to county and state about helping us clean it.

Libby mentions the new Climate Smart Communities certification. New Paltz has taken the initial pledge and would do well to rank highly in the program. She asked Dan to be the community liaison.