

Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board
Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2022

7:30 pm
via videoconference

Present: Chris Beadle, Rose Rudnitski, Yoni Schwartz, Kenji Tierney, Ted Nitza, Rich Whitney

Amanda Gotto, Planning Board Liaison
Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Liaison
Kathy Preston, Secretary

Dave Haldeman, UCEMC
Neil Bettez, Town Supervisor
Kristie DiCocco, Alta Planning
Bill Sprengnether, Alta Planning

Rich called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Chris moved, Rose 2nd to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021. All in favor.

Kenji will be attending the January 28 Planning Board meeting and Rose will attend on March 14.

Dave Haldeman, chair of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council attended and spoke to the group about the Council's mission and activities. The UCEMC is composed of municipal representatives from Ulster County Conservation Advisory Councils, Commissions and Boards, as well as at-large members from around Ulster County. The EMC meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm at SUNY Ulster, and he encourages any interested members to attend. Until recently, Jim Littlefoot had been attending on behalf of the Town and they are looking for another representative. The EMC is also in the process of developing a County-wide Natural Resources Inventory.

There was a discussion confirming that the EnCB will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Kristie DiCocco and Bill Sprengnether of Alta Planning provided the EnCB with an overview of the proposed green infrastructure for the Henry W. DuBois Road Improvement project. The goal of the project is to treat or reduce run-off from added impervious surface for the entire length of the corridor to the greatest extent possible. The project is being funded by a Climate Smart Communities grant from the DEC. The Town and Village are both involved in this project since HWD spans both municipalities. Existing conditions on the corridor provided many challenges. A combination of sand filters, infiltration trenches, and tree planting are proposed for appropriate locations along the corridor. The project schedule was reviewed. Rich does not feel this is a truly green project since it is only addressing the additional runoff. Alta believes this will be an overall improvement to existing conditions. There will be a monitoring well on site, and there is a monitoring requirement associated with the grant. There was a conversation about shifting mindsets regarding infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance. Planting selection has been designed with climate change in mind by selecting species that are also native to zones further south. Public comment is due by March 2. Rich moved, Rose 2nd to have Ted draft a letter expressing the EnCB's support for the project and concerns regarding stormwater maintenance and tree selection.

The Climate Smart Book Club will be meeting on March 15 to discuss *After Cooling: On Freon, Global Warming, and the Terrible Cost of Comfort* by Eric Dean Wilson; on April 19 to discuss *Captured: The Corporate Infiltration of American Democracy* by Sheldon Whitehouse; and on May 17th to discuss *Speed and Scale: An Action Plan for Solving Our Climate Crisis Now* by John Doerr. The next New Paltz Climate Smart Solutions Meetup , held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00, will be on Biochar. The Town Board just passed a resolution formally supporting Repair Café. The next Repair Café will be held on Saturday March 19th. The Tiffin Project is moving forward with additional participation from residents and restaurants.

Ted gave an update on the Village EPB. The municipal hauler contract with County Waste will be up for renewal in 2023. The EPB extends its congratulations on passing the CEA for the Shawangunk Ridge. Composting initiatives continue to progress. Leaf blower legislation has been put on hold as idling legislation has taken precedence. The next meeting of the Village EPB will be held on Tuesday, March 8.

Ted gave an update on the 2/14 Planning Board meeting. The Viking Industries PH has been extended until Feb. 28. There were concerns regarding noise, lighting, idling, and traffic but generally the application is meeting the submittal requirements. The Verizon cell tower at 700 N. Ohioville Rd. was approved for a waiver of simplified site plan. The applicant is requesting to replace the antennae, a modification of the existing tower which does not substantially change the physical dimension of the tower, does not affect traffic, stormwater or septic, is a Type II action under SEQRA, and will not have an adverse environmental impact. There was a discussion regarding the timeline for Viking Industries as it relates to tree clearing and bat habitat.

There was a discussion regarding inclusion of the CEA adoption and presentation to the Town Board. Ted moved, Yoni 2nd to approve the EnCB Annual report with a footnote clarifying that the CEA was passed in 2022. All in favor.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on March 16th.

There was a discussion regarding membership and quorum issues. Rich will request that the Town Board approve a reduction of membership.

Yoni moved, Ted 2nd to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.