

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

7:30 pm  
via videoconference

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

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

Rich called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

1. Yoni moved, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2022 as written. All in favor.
2. Rich will attend the 3/28 Planning Board meeting and Yoni will attend the 4/11 Planning Board meeting.
3. Planning Board Update:
  - a. Viking Industries has hired a traffic consultant. The Planning Board completed the SEQRA Part 2 and issued a Negative Declaration with the understanding that the applicant is expected to provide mitigation for moderate to large impacts as a part of the site plan. Viking will now return to the ZBA for the requested variances. The Planning Board will be conducting a site visit on Saturday, February 19. Viking wants to complete construction by October, and there is a lot of work to complete in the interim.
  - b. The proposed 350 N. Ohioville subdivision has wetland and setback issues and will come to the EnCB for review.
  - c. The Fredricks Lane lot line revision is proving to be more complicated than originally thought due to changes in the Town Code since the road was built.
  - d. Solar Generation Projects, LLC came before the Planning Board with a proposal for a 3.1 MW solar installation on the Town landfill. The project has been referred to the Code Inspector as it exceeds the size currently addressed in the code. They will be returning with a more complete application.
4. It was agreed that a rotating liaison should be created for the Ulster County Environmental Management Council meetings. The meetings take place on the final Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Janelle will try to attend the March 30 meeting.
5. Climate Smart Update:
  - a. Mohonk Consultations is offering *Farm Fields to Riverfronts – Nature Based Solutions to Climate Change in the Hudson Valley* on Wednesday, March 30, at 7 PM. The webinar will highlight nature-based initiatives underway in the region to address climate change locally including 1) agricultural practices that can help keep carbon in the ground while revitalizing farm soils and 2) steps that

communities can take to address flooding due to increasingly intense rain events and storm surges along the Hudson River.

- b. Janelle arranged a visit to UCCRA's recycling and composting facilities. The group learned how little of what goes into the waste stream is actually recyclable, with only 9% of plastics qualifying. Education and reduction are imperative.
  - c. The Climate Smart Book Club will be meeting 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.
  - d. The new MAP (My Alternative to Plastic) guide users to those establishments that provide food and household goods without plastic or 2 other "disposable" packaging, and where you can refill your own container or buy in bulk. The MAP will also have an overlay with the location of tiffin-friendly restaurants and caterers.
  - e. The Tiffin Project continues to gain momentum. Anyone interested in ordering a tiffin can reach out to Jim O'Dowd or email [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com).
  - f. Governor Hochul included a proposal for "extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper" (EPR) in her state budget proposal, but unfortunately there are serious flaws. In theory, shifting costs from taxpayers to the companies encourages companies to use less packaging and choose items that are more recyclable. But EPR will only achieve these outcomes if the legislation includes specific reduction requirements and standards for recyclability, recycled content and elimination of toxic substances, rather than asking for self-regulation on the part of the producers.
  - g. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) created a Climate Action Council charged with developing a scoping plan of recommendations to meet these targets and place New York on a path toward carbon neutrality. The Town Board is signing on to a letter to the Climate Action Council asking that a public hearing be held for the Mid-Hudson region so that the region has the opportunity to directly share perspectives and concerns as part of the public comment process.
- 6. The Annual Report was presented to the Town Board and the membership of the EnCB was officially reduced to 7 members.
  - 7. The Board agreed to switch the meeting date and location to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Town Courthouse. The next meeting of the EnCB will be on Monday, April 18 at 7:30 pm at the Town Courthouse.

Rose moved, Kenji 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.