**Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board & Village of New Paltz** **Environmental Policy Board Joint Meeting**

October 16, 2019 Minutes

Location: Town of New Paltz Community Center

**Meeting called to order 6:35pm**

**EnCB Participants (Quorum):** Ingrid Haeckel, Janelle Peotter, Susan Stessin, Jonathan Schwartz, Ted Nitza, Rose Rudnitski, Rich Whitney, R. Kenji Tierney

**EPB Participants (No Quorum):** Ted Nitza & Rachel Lagodka

**Public Observers:** Marty Irwin (Town Board) & Cara Lee (ad hoc solar committee)

**Approval of EnCB September 11 Minutes: 6 in favor, 2 abstentions**

**Planning Board Report**

10/15 meeting Report on NP Storage Site plans

Wetland inspection scheduled for 10/16/19

Concerns: Sidewalks, retention pond & tree preservation

**Village of New Paltz EPB**

General announcements

1. Currently reaching out to NPHS to find appropriate student to serve on the EPB

2. Don Kerr is going to the PB meetings and reporting back to the EPB

3. Continuing to review plastic bag ban in the village

4. Paint swap continues at the village hall (pickups at any time, dropoffs scheduled)

5. Discussion of residential trash pickup within the village

Current Concerns

1. Review/Update to the Idling Laws

2. Review current Zoning Rules concerning Fossil Fuel Facilities

3. Reviewing CEA (Critical Environmental Areas) designations for the Village

4. Solar Panel project at the Town Landfill

5. Reviewing Village of NP regulations on lawns

**Discussion Items:**

**A. Plastic Bag Ban (led by Nitza, Stessin & Schwartz)**

1. Presented proposal to update current Village Plastic Bag law & provide template for new Town law

2. Context: Assumption that localities can pass new (more stringent) laws before the state law comes into effect (3/1/20) - Enforcement by the DEC

3. New proposed law is a stricter version of the current Ulster County plastic bag law. Three changes:

            A. Start including restaurants and pharmacies in bag ban (5 cent charge/bag)

            B. Include dry cleaners ($1 charge/bag)

            C. Monies made from the plastic bags going to benefit exempted customers

**Motion to forward new Plastic Bag law**: **Approved** (7 in Favor, 1 opposed)

**Motion to amend clause A to not exempt in-store plastic produce bags**: **Not Approved** (1 in favor, 7 Opposed)

**B. Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) designation**

Final CEA map (10/9/19 version)presented with explanations for boundaries

Discussion: CEAs and development projects

**Motion to approve:** CEA proposal to be forwarded for consideration by the Town of New Paltz Planning Board (In favor 7, abstention 1)

**C. Clearwater Landfill Solar Project**

Presentation by Cara Lee (Ad Hoc Solar Committee) and Ted Nitza (EPB & EnCB) about the proposed Clearwater Landfill Solar Project

Context: NYS goal is 70% of state energy needs filled by renewals by 2030

Clearwater Solar project (25 year lease project), if approved, would start by 2021

Request For Proposals (RFP) went out in 6/7/2019 with site visit on 6/28/19

Received bids from 3 different firms

Sol Systems bid was chosen (1,300-1,400 house equivalent, $10-11m investment, ~25 acre project)

Remaining process: DEC permitting, SEQR review, etc.

Habitat Impact: 20 acre proposal with habitat mitigation and restoration of the land at the end of the lease

**Motion to support**: Approved (In favor 7, abstention 1)

Letter in support the solar project to be written by Rose Rudnitski

**D. Climate Smart update**

- Wildflower planting event on 10/20/19 at N Ohioville & 299

- 10/21 Task Force meeting 7pm in Community Center

- Monthly meetings, next 11/5/2019 (theme: Repair Cafe movement @6pm)

- Climate Vulnerability Survey (tinyurl.com/NPClimateSurvey)

- Completes Street Training on 9/23/19 - Consensus to create a complete streets policy that could be adopted by both Village and Town -- Will create of a short-term committee to create a joint policy for this

- Will submit application to have the Town of New Paltz certified as a Climate Smart City (Bronze Level) on 1/10/2020

**E. Bee City USA update (Rachel & Rose)**

- SUNY-NP is leaving fields fallow to encourage wildflower growth

- Wildflower planting event on 10/20/19 at N Ohioville & 299

**EnCB November meeting reschedule: Will follow up by email**

**Announcements**:

- Introduction to Habitats of the Hudson Valley webinar: October 24, 12-1pm

- Natural Resource Mapper Workshop: October 30, 7-9pm Goshen

- Community Preservation Act Information Event: November 14, 10am-1pm Newburgh

- Button added to Town EnCB website where letters and information can be posted

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:03pm**

Respectfully submitted by R. Kenji Tierney