**Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board Meeting Minutes (May 13, 2020)**

**Participants:  Ingrid Haeckel (Chair), Ted Nitza, Janelle Peotter, Rich Whitney, Rose Rudnitski, Susan Stessin, Jonathan Schwartz, Amanda Gotto (Planning Board Liaison), R. Kenji Tierney**

**7:35 Meeting called to order: Virtual Meeting (zoom.com) and recorded live (youtube.com)**

**Public Comment: No public comments**

**Planning Board: Update - Amanda Gotto**

* The last PB meeting was held at the end of February due to COVID-19. There are still active projects, but there are no updates on any of them at this point in time. The next PB meeting is to be held on May 28th and the Rose Lane/Hippoletta proposal is expected to appear on the agenda.
* PB Liaison schedule:
  + Thursday, May 28: Ted Nitza
  + Monday, June 8: Rose Rudnitski

**Discussion Items:**

* **Critical Environmental Areas (CEA): proposal update (Ingrid Haeckle)**
* No progress since Mid-March (last public meeting on March 5th). The hearings about the CEA designation are still open. This is due to technical questions about holding public hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* **Community Preservation (CP): update (Ingrid Haeckle)**

CP taskforce is meeting (virtually) every two weeks. Ted Fink, who was been hired to write the CP plan, started preparing it at the end of March. The plan is to have the CP plan completed by beginning of June in order for it to appear on the November ballot. The community survey was recently completed and had 500 respondents.

* **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI): update (Amanda Gotto)**
* ***Note:*** *Ingrid Haeckle recused herself during this discussion*
* Many different groups (EnCB, EPB, etc.) have committed volunteer hours toward the NRI. Nate Nardi-Cyrus is the DEC liaison and made suggestions for NRI map (based on the Erie county example that was provided). There will be an online version and a hardcopy version of the NRI. There is a photo project that needs a volunteer to sort and Rich Whitney volunteered.
* **New Paltz Village Environmental Policy Board (EPB): update (Ted Nitza)**
* The May 12th Meeting was held with quorum.
* The pit project looks like it will be heading forward.
* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the plastic bags law is not being enforced. Plastic bag field trip to Albany is also on hold.
* The Village has no updates on Bee City USA.
* High School students are trying to encourage composting opportunities in the town.
* The Village is also moving forward on idling laws (no contradictions with county or state laws).
* Approved green plantings in front of Village Hall.
* June 9th will be the next meeting.
* **Landfill Solar Project: update (Ted Nitza)**
* There are no new updates as the contractor who was selected is currently reviewing the contract. There will be discussions with the contractor about two plans: one plan to cover only the landfill with solar panels and the other plan to cover the landfill and surrounding areas with solar panels.
* **Climate Smart update (Janelle Peotter)**
* The Bronze Certification was officially awarded and progress is currently being made towards Silver certification.
* Is promoting community solar projects
* The Climate Smart Book Club continues and the next book to be discussed (virtual Zoom meeting) is Drawdown, with selections of it available on the website. The June book is Nature's Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy
* The next meeting will be: "10 Money Saving Steps to 100% Renewable (virtual on Zoom)
* **Bee City USA update (Ruth)**

Working to get official designation by the town. There are plans to write a Pollinator Friendly Plan for the NP Town to get a resolution passed (based on SUNY-NP's Pollinator Friendly Plan).

**Announcements:**

Wallkill River Online Summit – May 12 and June 8, 7pm

Forest Condition Index webinar – May 20, 12-1pm

**Next EnCB Meeting to be held on June 10, 2020 (Zoom Meeting)**

Ted Nitza moved to adjourn meeting at 8:54, motion seconded by Jonathan Schwartz. **Meeting adjourned in 8:55.**

Respectfully submitted by R. Kenji Tierney