Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board December 12, 2018 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Noel Russ, Joe Bergstein, Kenji Tierney, Rose Rudnitski, Ted Nitza, Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Susan Wile, Janelle Peotter and Amanda Gotto via telephone until their arrival. Visiting is Julia Danici from NPZ High School, Jonathan Schwartz (Yoni) faculty at SUNY.

Public Comments: None Meeting called to order at 7:35pm

November 14 minutes approved by 4 members with 3 abstentions.

**TREE PERMIT:**

EnCB received a permit for 56 Millrock Rd. after the October meeting. Since the thirty-day period passed, the homeowner can do whatever they want. Ted moves to take no action. Noel seconds. All in favor. Ingrid will ask Stacey to notify homeowner.

**PLANNING BD. PROJECTS:**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) Ingrid:**

* Ingrid sent proposal of CEAs to members. Purpose of CEA designation is to alert landowners, developers and regulatory agencies to these areas to minimize harm and avoid environmental hazards with a broad list of reasons CEAs can be designated. CEA does not restrict land use and only come into play for larger projects through the SEQR process. CEAs won’t prevent development, but help raise awareness. Ingrid’s Draft Proposal includes details of SEQR regulations regarding CEAs.
* Six CEAs are proposed: Shawangunk Ridge, Wallkill and Kleine Kill corridors, Swarte Kill wetlands, Plutarch Woods & Wetlands, Clearwater Woods, and Tributary 13/Mill Brook Preserve Area. Ingrid has questions about how to define the CEA around Tributary 13 – the 1995 comprehensive plan recommended establishing a CEA for the entirety of the watershed. Discussed possibility of a 600’ buffer along the stream, adding the branch of Trib 13 that goes across thruway to the core area of Mill Brook preserve. Ingrid is comfortable with watershed as buffer since town and village have invested in the resource. Habitat value is the primary concern per Julie and wants proposal to affirm that the area has high habitat value. Ingrid will update before next meeting and share with CWOSP for input.
* Ingrid met Neil this morning to discuss moving forward with designations. Neil is supportive of establishing CEAs. Next step is to meet with Town Bd. members and conduct public outreach; schedule one or two informational sessions on a Saturday am and/or evening *before* a public hearing.

**WEED KILLER OUTREACH (Joe):**

* Joe sent draft letters for review. Janelle recommended minor revisions. Joe recommends going online to research a DIY formula at end of letter. Neil and Ingrid will be signatories on letters. Neil and Adele will be signatory to developers. Letter will go out to: SUNY, Agway, Lowe’s, and True Value. Rose suggests sending to pool companies as well. If possible, there should be an ordinance. Joe suggests waiting a year and will get letters to Kathy Preston by end of year.
* There are additional opportunities for letters/articles to New Paltz Times with info from DEC on *good well health*. Town could also have a mailing or postings to website, and Facebook page.
* Janelle has SUNY intern doing social media for New Paltz and suggests putting it on FB, and Instagram. Joe will discuss with Janelle further.

**AWARENESS & COLLABORATION REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD (Ted):**

* Working on garbage recycling tour. Does it get recycled? What happens to it?
* Intern presented findings on study converting methane to energy and found there is equipment small enough. Action will be taken at January meeting.
* Village said no to CVS regarding tapping into village water. They will need their own well and septic.
* Village plastic bag ordinance will be superseded when Ulster County ordinance comes into effect. Neil is interested to hear what village is doing. The town and village could jointly adopt a plastic bag ordinance that takes steps beyond that of the county ordinance.
* As of December 1, the village has an electric vehicle charging station with a small fee for upkeep. Revenue goes to village.
* Working on annual report.

**CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES (Janelle):**

* Still don’t have emissions inventory completed. Maybe finished in January. Next task force meeting is Monday. The Coalition sponsored a “welcome to winter” event with Interfaith to make homes more efficient. The event was a success with the result that a dozen or more individuals volunteered for subcommittees.
* Per Amanda the NY Power Authority may be able to help with Q&A and literature.
* Interns have helped with social media. Using images on social media is key for the younger demographic that Janelle feels they’ve been missing.
* Awaiting results of bd. meeting regarding choice of consultants.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Rose sent article to members about native pollinators and is working on letter to NP Times.
* Ingrid followed up with SUNY regarding stream buffer restoration at new parking lot. John Shupe hopes to move forward with project in spring.
* Ingrid will present her EnCB Annual Report at next Town board meeting. Joe suggests minor revisions. Ted moves to approve report for calendar 2018 with Joe’s revisions. All in favor.
* Planning bd. meeting canceled this month. Ted is on schedule as liaison. TransHudson will be back with elevations. They mostly want feedback on the building aesthetics. We need to remind them that it’s not the only thing that needs to be addressed. Next meeting January 14.
* Ingrid looked up EnCB membership requirements. Members must live in town or village. Joe and Noel are moving and can no longer be on the board.

Noel makes motion to adjourn to have end of year celebration at Huckleberry’s. Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm