Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board December 13th, 2017 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Mike Domitrovits, Noel Russ, Kenji Tierney, Ingrid Haeckel, Laura deNey, Jim Littlefoot, and Amanda Gotto from Planning Board.

7:40 meeting called to order

No Public comments

NEW BUSINESS:

Solar Discussion with CWOSP members including Lynn Bowdery, Richard Fiesel, Cara Lee, Dennis Moore, and Tom Weiner. Stacey Delareade is writing solar law based on Gardiner model. PB wants to start by looking at the big solar farms biggest could have biggest impact. First question, do we even want solar farms in our town, what are the overall environmental benefits and issues, such as impacts to habitats, farmland and views. One upside is that it could keep people from having to subdivide and sell a big property. The town needs something on the books to deal with this issue. Cara from CWOSP—developers are looking for open land, such farmland and looking to be close to distribution lines. There is community scale which is up to 2 megawatts, and 24 is more common, some are 90 (really big). Community solar would be up to 12-14 acres. There is a benefit to farmers getting to lease to them. Ingrid—in terms of town law, do we want large scale solar and do we want to try to map where it would be best. Mike--look at Central Hudson distribution lines would be a good place to start. Ingrid—would be easy to come up with a list of places that would NOT be good, like wetlands, good farmland soils, woods, would be a place to apply habitat assessment guidelines. CWOSP—idea that there could be points for a rating system, if doesn’t block the view, etc all gets a certain amount of points. Laura likes this idea. Cara—contact someone at PACE, to point us in right direction about habitat issue questions. They have produced guidelines on farmland. Trees are an issue. Also, are there any real spaces where it could work? It’s a tiny amount of space that will work. ENCB will contact PACE and also Central Hudson. Jim: Idea of creating zones—the big farms would have to be in a certain zone.

Marty Irwin gave update that Thaliaferro’s easement seems to be going through.

November 8th minutes approved--5 approved, 1 abstention.

PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS:

129 PLAINS ROAD—

They flipped the location of the house and septic, because soils for septic were better there. Town engineer questioned drainage but now said its fine. The two engineers seem to disagree about that, ultimately it needs DOH’s approval. Wells seem OK, one may be a spring, basement is going in but it may only be four feet. Town wetlands inspector delineated wetlands, they contacted DEC who said they are not connected to the state wetlands. There is a bald eagle nesting .8 miles away, but seems OK because trees will not be cut down and are not too close to nest. There are small wetlands next to pond but the project is outside buffer areas. Ingrid will write a letter about the subdivision.

Amanda expects Wildberry to come back by February. The PB is asking about underground parking or anything to reduce the impervious pavement. It would be an idea place for pervious pavement.

Town grant to inventory shade trees—Jim will get involved

Ingrid presented revised annual report, to be presented in person to the Town Board. Motion made to approve the annual report. All approved (6).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* Ingrid submitted our dates to still be on the second Wednesday of February. We need to decide schedule for ENCB liasons to Planning Board
* Mike Calimano will no longer be on the Planning Board, 2 open spots for PB, Town Board to decide.
* Andy Ashton and Mike D. are not going to continue into 2018 on the ENCB.

Motion to adjourn 9:24pm