Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board June 13, 2018

Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Ted Nitza, Rose Rudniski, Joe Bergstein, Jim Littlefoot, Kenji Tierney, Noel Russ, Janelle Peotter (phone), Amanda Gotto (Planning Board liaison, arrived 8:35PM)

Minutes recorded by Ingrid Haeckel

Meeting called to order at 7:42PM

**Public Comment: none**

**Approval of June 13 minutes: Ted made motion, Noel 2nd, all in favor (8)**

**Planning Board Projects:**

* TransHudson/CVS

Ingrid provided overview of the July 9 Planning Board meeting. Site plans have not changed for the project. PB reviewed issues brought up by Town Engineer in most recent review.

Issues for EnCB letter:

* Wider vegetated Thruway buffer
* Incorporate GI practices
* Reduce amount of fill, maintain some natural topography
* Sidewalk easement to connect to Henry Dubois
* More native landscaping, increased shade cover. Protect mature shade trees where possible if site elevation is lowered
* Move buildings toward street and parking in back, decrease parking spaces.
* Improve architectural details

Ingrid will draft letter and circulate

**Discussion Items:**

North Putt Traffic study – Ingrid will clarify Shivertown numbers with Chris Marx.

July 9th Saw Mill Brook stream walk recap (Ingrid, Rose, Ted)

* Met with John Shupe, Mike Brennan, and Jeff Lewis from SUNY. Neil Bettez, Jason West, Craig Chapman, KT Tobin, Scott Cuppett, and Beth Roessler. Walked to new parking lot site and along ponds through campus following course of the Saw Mill Brook, discussing opportunities for stewardship and green infrastructure retrofits. Ingrid will summarize ideas from the walk in a letter.

Awareness and Collaboration Report from the Village's Environmental Policy Board (Ted)

* Finishing up WWTP study – looking closer at peak/max days.
* Intern doing methane to energy study.
* Reviewing the reed system to digest portion of sludge. Has been idle, some invasive species concerns.
* Increased activity/action on failed/failing septic relief (can’t extend sewer system everywhere).
* Keeping eye on plastic straws/bags

County Plastic Bag Ban hearing and Plastic Straw Challenge (Joe)

* 15 spoke in favor, 1 spoke against on sanitary issues of reused bags
* Legislature will take about a month to review
* If passes, Earth Day 2019 will go into effect
* $0.05 paper bags. Will try to encourage reusable bag use
* Plastic Straw Challenge folks revisited some restaurants in mid-June. Most were still providing straws. Maybe not in drink, but on the side. Joe’s recommendation is to explore an ordinance.
* Starbucks will phase out straws by 2020.
* We can still push local franchises (McDonalds, Burger King) to eliminate straws.
* Ted – Village EPB is waiting to see how county legislation goes. Then try to go further.
* County legislation still allows pharmacy and dry cleaner bags (and one other type).

Lowes weed killer letter (Joe)

* Town of New Paltz does not apply any weed killer, nor does NP Central School District or Moriello Pool
* Agway and TrueValue also selling weed killers. We should send letter to them, too, encouraging to offer more alternatives.
* Could also follow up with NP Times letter, and correspondence to landscaping companies.
* Ted: Motion to approve letter, send to Neil. Jim (second). All in favor (7).

Bee City USA (Rose)

* Neil is in favor, want to combine Town and Village on application. Subsidiary of Xerxes Society.
* EnCB will be the lead committee. Ted will bring to the EPB.

Climate Smart Communities (Joe)

* The 2018 Green Business Challenge (GBC) Campaign was recently launched  by the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee and the Ulster County Department of the Environment and the Office of Economic Development.
* The Goal of the GBC: With the assistance of volunteer GBC Ambassadors and local experts, 100 Ulster County businesses, organizations, or municipalities will complete an energy retrofit, install solar or other renewable energy, or implement another action that will both save money and significantly reduce carbon emissions.
* Both Janelle and Joe attended the GBC launch, which occurred in early June with a follow up meeting later in June.   They estimate that there were approximately 40 people who were present (people who have been dubbed Green Ambassadors) who met with a variety of experts in the area of energy auditing, solar installation, lighting , food waste reuse /composting , etc.
* Given the abundance of restaurants in New Paltz, we feel that a logical GBC focus could be in the area of  food waste reuse and composting .   Coincidentally, Joe was contacted by Dan Guenther who chairs the Climate Action Coalition (CAC) in New Paltz, soon after the GBC meetings.   Dan was interested in obtaining  some guidance for greening restaurants, that his committee could share with food service establishments in the community to get them on a more sustainable path.   Joe shared a workbook  that was developed under an EPA grant to the New York Restaurant Association, entitled *The* *Green Hospitality Initiative*at:  [http://www.nysra.org/uploads/8/4/9/2/84927158/ghi\_green\_workbook\_updated.pdf](http://www.nysra.org/uploads/8/4/9/2/84927158/ghi_green_workbook_updated.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  and the contact information of several people with expertise in food recovery and composting.  The food waste reuse & composting expert participating in the GBC is Melinda Herzog.  Ms. Herzog is with the Cornell Cooperative extension of Ulster County.   In addition to Melinda, the Community Compost Company, based in New Paltz, will be contacted to provide some technical assistance to  the CAC with their  green restaurant project.
* Will be recruiting businesses to participate.

Stormwater subcommittee (Joe)

* Rob Ferri, former EnCB member. Retired EPA Enforcement Program. Boat Brigade coordinator for Wallkill River Watershed Alliance in Ulster Co.
* Proposing a Wallkill River Stormwater Coalition – bring together multiple communities to find efficiencies. Proposing it tonight at WRWA.
* Would like to look into a minimum post construction stormwater management0 control measure. Rob is looking into a possible ordinance
* Rebecca Minas did 5-year MS4 report recently – need to review report.
* Thinks NP should explore 9-Element watershed plan.
* Will hopefully attend in August.

grant update (Janelle and Amanda)

* GHG emission inventory and plan – finally in order with DEC
* Tried to submit Estuary Grant application but last item was not uploaded in time before system deadline. Will apply for extension to submit last item.

Critical Environmental Areas (no update)

Meeting adjourned at 9:33PM

**Announcements**:

Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper webinar, July 18