Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board July 12, 2017 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Laura De Ney, Joe Bergstein, Mike Domitrovits, Noel Russ, Jim Littlefoot, Susan Wile and Amanda Gotto from Planning Board. Stacey Delarede, building inspector and code enforcer of New Paltz attends to discuss Tree Conservation Law.

Motion to come to order made at 7:41pm.

Public Comment: Kim Kimble

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kim lives on Plains Road, which is in the midst of a controversy with water district 5. Their plan is to run a new water line down the center of the road. The trees on the road’s edge are beautiful, large and at least 100-150 years old. They are a mix of black locust, maple and others.

* In order to try and preserve trees this size, it’s important to make surgical cuts on tree roots under the roadway.
* Kim requested an arborist be present for certain sections of road. Town board would sign off on arborist working with DEP paying for most of it. A special town board meeting is to be held tomorrow regarding this issue.
* Per Laura, EnCB would be willing to write a letter to town board and/or the paper.
* Stacey thinks we should explain what the issue is and how it needs to be handled. Identify the areas where caution is necessary and spell it out to them. Tree roots will spread as far as the drip line.
* EnCB and Historic Preservation Commission should come together on this issue. Joe will draft letter and send to all for review prior to sending to town board.

TREE LAW REVIEW: Stacey led a thorough review of the tree law as it is currently written.

* Stacey performs a site review to determine if the tree in a protected area or not.
* If a tree is ¾ dead = dead.
* If a tree is indicated on a site plan, it needs to be replaced. There are thirty-five days in which to approve a replacement, and six months to cut the tree and replace. The code does not specify that the individual must appear before EnCB. Since Stacey doesn’t know whether a permit has been approved, EnCB will cc Stacey with email. An application can be amended at any time and EnCB can edit as we see fit.
* Any tree damaged by a storm is exempt. EnCB could add this to MS4
* New divisions have managed drainage easements
* 8% landscaping is required for new subdivision, but it is up to the Planning board to request the site plan. They can express what they want, i.e. a tree survey, preservation, or work around trees. Applicants may work with the board or not.
* Stacey suggests we propose that anyone other than homeowner should be licensed to cut trees. For PSA, Stacey also advised to include the best time to cut trees is prescribed by DEC law (to preserve long eared brown nosed bat, if cutting in restricted area).
* EnCB will let Stacey know if we approve or decline permit and whether applicant should replant a tree. Discretion lies with the board whether someone should replant.
* Do we want to charge fees? EnCB will submit to town board for reorganizational meeting in January. Fees would go into general fund and would allow EnCB to spend monies from fund.
* Assess application fee i.e. $25. If permission granted, then charge permit fee. How much? $100? If applicant plants a replacement tree, the board could waive the fee. EnCB could stipulate that the tree must be planted within a certain time, i.e. three months.
* Should criteria 130-6 be placed on application? Yes. All agree.
* EnCB files report yearly to town in October. We could list those folks not in compliance.

STORM WATER:

* The town board has not appointed a storm water manager. MS4 and storm water laws and discharge laws require approximately ten hours of work per week. Joe wants to meet with Stacey to discuss the various laws. Clearing and grading law from 2002 is virtually unenforceable. Something EnCB could take on? Chapter 140/118?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

* Laura makes motion to approve May minutes. Approved.
* Laura makes motion to approve June minutes with minor edit changing name of Gaulucci. Approved with one abstention – Mike D.

GREEN PROCUREMENT: Joe is working on a one-page document and will work with Noel to review items on the list and then publicize it. According to Stacey, not everyone goes through Jean for purchasing. The town will have to come up with SOP, which is the best way to go per Stacey. What are we buying, how much does it cost? What are the cost comparables? We need to stipulate which chemicals NOT to use. EnCB will review and discuss at next meeting. Does town have chemical management plan? No.

Laura makes motion to adjourn at 9:41.