Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board August 8, 2018 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Noel Russ, Joe Bergstein , Janelle Peotter, Susan Wile and Kenji Tierney. Jim Littlefoot arrived 7:50pm. Rob Ferri from the Wallkill Watershed Alliance also attending.

Public Comments: None

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm

Joe makes motion to approve July 11 minutes. Noel seconds. Four approve, one abstention.

TRANSHUDSON/CVS

* Received updated submission with official waiver for tree survey and updated architectural renderings.
* SWIP provided is adequate as it meets requirements of towns' storm water management law.
* Includes plan for managing traffic during fill transportation period and incorporates a bus shelter. Location of the Empire State Trail has also been added. DOT is considering a traffic barrier between 299 and the bike lane down the section of 299 where the bike trail runs, but DOT has made no decision yet.
* Site lighting utilizes all LED with no excessive light spill. TransHudson maintains they are not polluting the night sky. What are criteria for night sky?
* They don’t need to be on village water and Dept. of Health found well acceptable. Preliminary water samples analyzed volatile compounds and pesticides, but none detected. Some metals detected at naturally occurring concentrations.
* Bike lane is no longer dual bike/pedestrian. Ingrid sent letter ten days ago and argued for sidewalk easement. During site visit, approach was made via existing entrance. Ingrid was aware of the trees and land formation buffering noise from 87, but when within 50 feet of thruway the noise was very loud. Small wetland area on site does not meet criteria for town law. Plans indicate existing vegetation.
* Per Ingrid, Planning bd. should look at the trees within the town tree law and conduct a survey along the road with an eye toward the trees that have landscape, shade, and preservation value. Area along 87 has some old oaks. Pin oaks probably planted along property boundary. There are some swamp white oaks along wetland. Rebecca Minas did calculations and found with appropriate filtration, the site could be lowered by three feet, which would reduce 840 truck- loads of fill.
* Antiquated zoning currently in place regarding number of parking spaces. Possibility for green infrastructure for overflow parking spaces?

DISCUSSION ITEMS

* Saw Mill Brook Water Alliance wants to conduct comprehensive water test in 5-6 locations along stream to identify where problems are coming from. Environmental Labworks in Marlboro tests water for $250 per test. Ingrid proposes that EnCB cover two of the tests, as we haven’t touched our annual budget of $1,100 this year. She discussed this with Jean Galucci, who approved it since the cost was under $1K. Will also try to get funding from SUNY and village with a proposal to Town Bd. to spend $500 for this testing. Rob wonders if SUNY is required to do sampling of their stream and to ask the college. If they’re required, we will do it, provided they fund us. Particular locations to test are at bottom and top of campus. Ingrid hopes testing will happen before end of September.
* Per Rob, Wallkill Stormwater coalition put a proposal together for the Bd. of Directors of the Wallkill Watershed Alliance. According to MS4 regulations, all towns along the Wallkill are required to have storm water management plans, monitor outfalls, and sample the water with Riverkeeper. Volunteers currently do this and no town can do everything necessary to be in compliance. This needs to be done on a professional level. Towns don’t have anyone to do the work, which must be funded. There must be a joint annual report, and ordinances for discharges, retrofit provision ordinances, monitor water quality monitoring, storm water mapping, identifying priority water areas, and website maintenance. New Paltz is the only town with a contract. Typically, highway superintendents are told to do this, and most know nothing about storm water. Rob’s proposal would cost $2-3K. Ulster County would be financial backer to handle money and payroll, so the group could concentrate on sampling and community outreach. Town engineers should be checking catch basins and outfalls along the Wallkill. Jason West and Rob are going from town to town, to meet with supervisors and engineers soliciting interest and involvement. Rob would like the county to set up a special department and employ current volunteers to put together conferences to do training on an ongoing basis.
* In LULA training, the goals for storm water management were updated to reflect storm water design manuals and create a resiliency. At the state level, model laws were drafted. EnCB believes New Paltz should update its law with the resilience version of the new model, and review items that differ from the current law in terms of referencing green infrastructure and best practices. Although the state law is not formally the new model, it is available for public consumption. Ingrid will research when the state law will be law with the an eye to making a formal recommendation to the Town bd. to update its law based on the new model.

WEED KILLER NEXT STEPS:

* Neil Bettez signed Joe’s letter drafted to the corporate sustainability officer at Lowe’s. There is currently no ban on glyphosate weed killers at the state or federal level.
* Joe thinks a letter to the NPZ Times could be a good public information piece. Correspondence to local businesses that sell roundup i.e. Truevalue Hardware and Agway might also help, in addition to circulating it to landscaping businesses. Joe will prepare something short that indicates we’re concerned about this. Janelle suggests sharing letter with Jason West of Wallkill River Alliance.
* Joe would like Jim Littlefoot to bring it to EMC to be a louder voice in the county on this issue.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES:

* Per Janelle, they are getting closer to compiling all data on the greenhouse gas inventory. She received an email from Jason West offering to work on Climate Action Plan as part of his Master’s thesis, though she’s not sure what he’s proposing.
* Climate Action Coalition is presenting National Drive Electric week. A parade for September 15 will start at the middle school and end at “the green vendor fair” in the parking lot at village hall, which takes place from 12-3 with speakers and vendors of EV cars and alternate energies. Activities for kids will include a bike-decorating contest.

GREEN BUSINESS:

* Per Joe – Mannajo Greene is taking on the green business challenge to reduce greenhouse gases through energy audits, retrofits, and food waste reuse and composting.
* Iris Murray Bloom participates in CAC in NPZ and Eileen Banyra of Community Compost Company is looking to expand her business. After the CAC meeting, they will explore how to implement a program with food services interested in this challenge. The goal is to get 100 businesses countywide to participate. Joe would like to track the volume of materials to recognize the organizations achieving this. Noel suggested that Joe should talk to the folks in Beacon who collect food scraps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* Ingrid will be teaching a short course with a colleague from Hudsonia on Habitat and Water Resource Assessment for land-use planning. The course will be held September 14 and 15 from 9am to 5pm and will include map reading skills, conservation principles and review of a development. Participants will practice looking at site plans, create a basic habitat map and conduct a site visit.
* EnCB picnic to take place this Sunday in Sojourner Truth Park at 5pm.

Motion to adjourn at 9:03pm.