Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board January 16, 2019 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Joe Bergstein, Kenji Tierney, Rose Rudnitski, Ted Nitza, Julie Seyfert-Lillis (Town Bd. liaison), Susan Wile, Jonathan (Yoni) Schwartz (waiting to be approved and sworn in), Nancy Arias (prospective member), and Amanda Gotto (Planning Bd. liaison). Konzu Shimada from NPZ High School visiting.

Public Comments: None Meeting called to order at 7:38pm

December minutes approved with no abstentions.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Ingrid provides brief review of recent EnCB issues for Nancy.
* There are currently three openings on the EnCB. Ingrid recommended the Town bd. appoint Yoni. Julie will check.
* TransHudson will have water analysis report and new renderings At next Planning Bd. meeting on Jan. 28. Amanda will take all of EnCB docs and determine what TransHudson has not yet provided. Ingrid will attend meeting.
* Ingrid will provide Pat Atkins with list of bd. members so that everyone can access Dropbox files.
* Ingrid will discuss with Rosanna organizing a separate page as repository of EnCB maps and documents.
* Ted is Planning Bd. liaison for January, Ingrid for February.

**PLANNING BD. PROJECTS:**

**PB 18-313 Moriello Lot Line Revision**

* Per Amanda, this is semi-approved. It is simply a division of a large lot into two parcels; 123.9 acres and 167 acres divided by Route 32. The request is for a simple subdivision, with no other changes and no plans for development. A public hearing will take place in February. Ted makes motion that the EnCB has no concerns. Rose seconds motion. All in favor.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**THE BIRCHES Development** **(Vaccaro):**

* Vaccaro has reactivated application but still owes escrow funds and is due back at Planning Bd. on Jan. 28. Per Amanda, this subdivision began before the wetland law existed. Vaccaro wants to put 10-12 houses in subdivision and to fill in wetland for a road. Wetland inspector says Vaccaro needs to submit long form wetland permit with proposed mitigation. Potential exists for substantial adverse impacts on regulated areas. Another site visit will be planned with EnCB member(s) attending.

**Critical Environment Areas (CEA): (Ingrid, no CWOSP members present):**

* Ingrid added watershed boundary for Trib 13 and adjusted Shawangunk Ridge with 600’ buffer along Kleine kill. Ingrid thinks educating public with informational events about CEA’s and/or tagging event to Earth Day or other environmental events is important *before* moving to a public hearing. Perhaps organizing a nature walk in Millbrook Preserve to share CEA info or an article in the paper would help, with a targeted mailing to property owners. Ingrid will begin drafting a letter to landowners to share/review with Town Bd. members. Next steps – Ingrid finishes CEA map and will present to Town Bd. with recommendations to move forward and volunteer to host and send mailing. Then a public hearing and a recommendation for a Resolution by the Town Bd. to be filed with DEC. CEAs do not prevent development from occurring in an area, but can help raise awareness to preserve habitat connectivity, broader water resource buffers, and wildlife corridors. CEAs are identified on the SEQR Environmental Assessment Forms. This will be up to the Planning Bd. since it is optional whether community has a CEA. Ingrid will discuss with CWOSP in February and attend March Town Bd.

**Awareness & Collaboration Report from Environmental Policy Bd. (Ted)**

* Met Jan. 10 to discuss plastic bags and paint swap in village hall. They are critically low on paint. All donations welcome! There are five members on this board with no age restriction. Informally, the board will dedicate one position to a progressive HS student.
* Dan, (HS student member) is pursuing a bike-sharing plan for New Paltz. An additional research intern from SUNY will work under Ted. Rachel is interested in SafeNY and will reach out to Rose.
* There have been beaver sightings on SUNY campus’ “tripping fields,” with decision to leave them alone.
* Ted drafted an annual report. One of the goals is to cohost two meetings with EnCB in 2019. All EnCB members to attend one of their meetings and all EPB members to attend an EnCB meeting with specific agenda to collaborate on plastic bag issue.
* Regarding plastic bag ban, EPB recommended a small but significant change to Village bd. re size of bags and bag thickness with a recommendation to remove the word PLASTIC throughout the village with a further consideration for an ordinance to be adopted by the Village. The ordinance would be at the level of Ulster County’s law, but more aggressive and include restaurants, dry cleaners, and straws. By including restaurants and dry cleaner bags (possibly with an extra charge), plastic straws, and plastic greater than 4 mils, New Paltz could become a leader. Yoni suggests this be THE agenda item in February, with a presentation to the Town Bd. by April. The ultimate goal is to encourage the public to use their own bags.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR RE WELL TESTING (Joe):**

* While there are 3 certified labs in Ulster County, many homeowners are in the dark about getting their wells tested. Joe will make a minor revision to his letter. Although Joe is moving, as a friend of the EnCB, he wants to continue writing letters to the editor and to work with Jim Littlefoot to move this discussion to the county for broader outreach.
* Joe proposes a monthly letter to the editor or an article to NPZ Times from the EnCB with topics from meetings.

**BEE CITY USA (Rose):**

* Rose and Grai St. Clair Rice of Honey Bee Lives are planning an event on pollinators at Elting Library.
* If town passes the Bee City USA resolution there need to be ongoing projects. With endorsement from Huguenot Street, Grai will work to establish an original pollinator garden there.

**TRIB 13 SOURCE TRACKING WORKSHOP NEXT STEPS (Ingrid)**

* Riverkeeper will provide guidance and technical support and recommends that the EnCB and EPB act as stewards for Trib 13. Ingrid spoke with Riverkeeper and Neil and discussed this to be a subcommittee of village EPB and EnCB. With a background in water quality work and having worked with Riverkeeper, Nancy Arias would be the ideal member for subcommittee. Kenji volunteers as back-up if Nancy has a problem.
* Ted makes motion that EnCB accepts recommendation. All agree. Ingrid will move to agenda next month.
* Yoni will get in touch with SUNY for possibility of intern.

Meeting adjourned 9:35pm