Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board February 13, 2019 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Joe Bergstein, Kenji Tierney, Rose Rudnitski (via telephone), Ted Nitza, Jim Littlefoot, Susan Wile, Jonathan (Yoni) Schwartz, Janelle Peotter, Nancy Arias (prospective member), Amanda Gotto (Planning Bd.), and Julie Seyfert-Lillis (Town Bd.). Amanda and Janelle and arrived late.

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

January minutes approved by all members present (5) with 0 abstentions.

**Miscellaneous:**

* Town has expanded EnCB’s capability and given permission to post on town’s website. Joe suggests including the glyphosate info, plastic straws, restaurant owners, and tree-cutting letter that summarizes law. Ingrid will figure out how to post to page.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Awareness & Collaboration of Env. Policy Bd. (Ted):**

* EPB meetings are second Thursdays of the month. The first joint EnCB-EPB meeting was approved by EPB to take place March 14 at Village Hall 6:30pm. EnCB will attend with second meeting tbd.
* SUNY masters student studied harnessing methane at power plant. EPB will endorse and recommend to Village Bd. Dan (high school student) is pursuing a bike-sharing plan for New Paltz.

**Plastic Bag Law Amendments/Expansions (Ted/Yoni):**

Recommendations in three categories:

ITEM 1: Items we recommend Ulster County include in their revised law:

1. Exempt WIC/SNAP recipients from five-cent fees
2. Delay enforcement for 6 months
3. Add a one-time three week holiday of five cent fees for late 2019 (when the six month delay is almost expired)
4. Include a ‘cost of living’ index (increase) for the penalties/fines
5. Allow local units of government to assume enforcement, and proceeds from enforcement (Sheriffs’ Office or Village Bd.? County Exec. To designate agency in charge of enforcement)
6. At time of law implementation allow a two week free bag offering by covered stores

ITEM 2: Items to recommend the Town and Village implement as a new joint law (recognizing Ulster Co. law):

1. Include restaurants, pharmacies as ‘covered stores’
2. Include drycleaners with $0.50 per bag if paper or plastic
3. Require proceeds by stores to re reinvested in bags for distribution
4. Enable shoppers to donate sums towards low income people receiving free bags based on honor system or other enforcement (WIC/SNAP, SUNY students, or self-declared)

ITEM 3: Items the EnCB and the EPB should take lead on:

1. Local education and outreach (bag give-aways?)
2. Seek sponsors for New Paltz-branded or co-branded reusable bags

* EPB recommended to Village Bd. to increase aggressiveness of plastic bag ban with recommendation to consider removing plastic bag references. A public hearing will take place to consider change in law. Majority decision sent to Village bd.
* EPB hoping to work with SUNY intern who will focus on outreach, writing letters from EPB to get the word out on Ulster County plastic bag rule. She will also write letter to editor about what can be recycled.
* Village bd. is pursuing amending the village law to remove any type of plastic bag allowance. EPB is trying to pursue this at town level as well.
* Yoni reviewed Ulster County law and compared it to California law. The Ulster County law covers drugstores, pharmacies, food marts, apparel, home center, hardware, and farmer’s markets but does not include food service establishments. Restaurants are exempt on county law. Tops and Shoprite are not exempt under the county law. Whose responsibility will it be to enforce the new law? Suggestion made for Tops and Shoprite to have a collection box for the public to bring in plastic bags for use by needy public. Styrofoam is not allowed in Ulster county restaurants. Julie suggests adding Styrofoam to Item #3.
* Ted moves to draft item #1 that EnCB supports efforts to implement – all approve. With a change in Item #2, C. to replace the word, REQUIRE with the word, ENCOURAGE – all approve. Styrofoam added to Item #3, with re-use bag sites added – all approve. Jim will share with Ulster Co. Conservation Bd.

**EMC Update (Jim):**

* January meeting canceled. Will provide update in March.
* Jim sent email on power plant in Orange County, which is big concern. The truth is not getting out on how much carbon dioxide is emitted. The impact is now being investigated. Additional concern is that Minnesota-based GlidePath Power Solutions wants to build a power plant along Frank Sottile Boulevard in the town of Ulster, with all energy produced, going to NYC. Air quality (now good), in New Paltz up to Big Indian, including Woodstock, east and west Hurley and Phoenicia will be affected. GlidePath Power Solutions is counting on reducing the air quality, while maintaining it within legal limits. Cities and towns in Orange County have reached legal air quality limits.

**LOOP & Revised Letter to Editor re well testing (Joe):**

* Joe got input from Ingrid and Yoni and revised the letter to editor with minimal changes. Evaluating water annually is EPA recommendation. Public Service Announcement type letter to editor for homeowners to take care of their wells. Ted moves to allow Joe to submit most current letter to editor -- all in favor.
* Joe followed up with support team on LOOP store program with plenty of questions. LOOP program may initially focus on NYC.

**Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) Proposal – Next Steps (Ingrid):**

* Ingrid spoke with Michael Zierler, Julie and Neil in last few weeks. She has also requested input from CWOSP and reserved time at March 7 Town Bd. meeting for short presentation. She will have conversations with Town bd. members for more input, and will send CEA to DEC central office for additional input before Town Bd. presentation. Town bd. must adopt it as a resolution and then send to DEC. The CEA will then become part of DEC’s official map.
* Ingrid has scheduled two Public information sessions (April 13 and 17), to get the message out and needs help. Nancy is willing. There could also be article in NPZ Times and use of social media to spread the word. April 13 is the week before Easter and members suggests rescheduling to the Earth day celebration at the Dutch Reformed Church. Deyo hall is possible as an alternate venue. Could structure event with tables based on geographic areas of town or by CEA so the public could go to the area they’re most interested. Julie suggests “adopt a CEA.” Facilitators for each CEA area? Climate Action Coalition involved. A short introduction is suggested and then folks can break into smaller groups – one would be the Ridge, another the Wallkill corridor, Trib 13, and the Swaartekill area with each group brainstorming questions/suggestions, with a ninety minute maximum timeframe. Julie would lead the Trib 13 group, Cara lee is suggested for the Ridge group. Suggestion to line up habitat with roads so homeowners knows their CEA area, and/or overlay with town map and/or include parcel boundaries on web map so the public can search for property boundaries.
* CEA should be an item in the New Paltz Times (not a letter), and public outreach should take place *before* a public hearing.

**Planning Board Projects:**

* Tow-Rific has not addressed earlier comments. They have not had the wetland inspector to site and still need a wetland delineation. They pulled everything back from residential side of property. There are nine parking spaces for a gravel/vehicle storage (impounds) near the wetland area. Concern exists for the very tight turning radius for large flatbed trailers. Proposal has no storm water management yet. Do they need a back-up septic? It is not shown. Where does snow go? Where does garbage go? Ingrid will ask Pat to resend prior comments – no new comments at this point. Revised drawing doesn’t change comments.
* New site plan for Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays on N. Ohioville Rd. is in violation of wetlands law. New property purchased in September 2016, adjacent to old sporting clays property, but not same owner. Trees were cut in wetland buffer, reported to Stacy Delarede in December and rocks were dug up to build a new road through the wetlands without a permit. Site visit by Wetland Inspector took place November 2018. Wetland inspector determined there were three separate violations on federal wetlands. Property owner has not yet addressed town code violation, and lack of building permit approval. (The town has no decibel/noise ordinance.) Sixteen specific sites allow members to shoot into the wetlands. There is serious concern of lead contamination in wetlands from spent munitions. Spent munitions have been classified as a discharge under the Clean Water Act, which requires a NPDES permit. Planning bd. attorney is checking into law. EnCB reported a possible wetland violation and clearing and grading violation on the site to the Building Inspector in December 2016. Habitat assessment of property may be required for a town wetland permit. Property also falls in a proposed CEA. Ingrid will draft preliminary comments on application only, not a full review.
* CVS – returning end of February. TransHudson claiming they’re going to drill a new well. Planning bd. asked them to work with Rebecca.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44pm