Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board June 12, 2019 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Kenji Tierney, Rose Rudnitski, Ted Nitza, Rich Whitney, Amanda Gotto (liaison from Planning Bd.), Susan Stessin Cohen (prospective member), Susan Wile, and Oliver Goland, (community member)

Public Comments: Andy Loyer, owner of New Paltz Storage on Henry W. Dubois attended to explain his expansion project, currently an applicant to the Planning Bd.

Meeting called to order at 7:43pm

May 8 minutes approved. 4 approved, 0 abstentions.

**NEW PALTZ STORAGE PROJECT – Andy Loyer:**

* Not much changed since submitting plans to Planning bd. There has been a site visit with Mark, the town wetland inspector. Karen Arent, landscape architect hired to render design including bioswale(s) for runoff. Design will have evergreens and mix of other vegetation to diminish visibility from road. Landscaping will screen entire building to mitigate 3-stories. Architect suggests extending bioswale to water the plants. Area in front could also be planted with bioswale connecting to wetland C. Roof water will also go into bioswale. Ingrid suggests a wide berth given to the swamp white oak.
* The town wetland inspector and Andy’s biologist determined that Wetland A identified on the site plan is not a wetland. Site visit provided opportunity to evaluate how to treat storm water to diminish impact on existing wetlands since wetland C and B connect to stream. Wetlands are on all sides except on side where he wants to build. Andy wants to build outside of 100’ buffer and build bioswale where water naturally flows.
* Entrance stays as is and widens at entry. Plans will be updated to help drainage and reduce salt usage. Town engineer and Andy’s engineer determined that the gravel is so compacted it isn’t permeable. Per Ingrid, Andy should discuss with engineer that the bioswale collect runoff from the parking area, leaving clean roof water directed to the existing drainage ditch draining to wetland C. EnCB advises verifying with Stacy Delareade whether a town wetland permit is necessary, since all wetlands in the vicinity are under DEC jurisdiction. Roof design will be simplified for easier build. Andy is trying to get on June 24 planning bd. meeting with updated plan, with Village still needing to vote. Andy said he would schedule a second site visit during the Planning Bd meeting.
* Per Ingrid, EnCB will wait to see updated stormwater management and landscaping plans prior to submitting written comments.

WILDBERRY:

* Ingrid suggests tabling Wildberry until new EIS submitted. Per Amanda, Rose will review storm water management, **Ted; water** and wastewater, Kenji; traffic flow, Yoni; parking, Ingrid; wetlands and habitat. Amanda requested site visit as well. Ingrid will follow up with Pat to send link to Rich. Per Amanda - read the beginning and then skip to part F.

**PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS:**

**KUVEIKIS SUBDIVISION (Amanda):**

* Applicant wants to split 16 acres into 2 properties, though they can’t legally subdivide to create a second home in a flood plain. Ingrid suggests writing a letter, citing ordinance, emphasizing that no new home can be built in a flood plain. Rose will write the letter per town codes’ flood plain ordinance. Vote taken for letter to Kuveikis, all in favor.

**JOHN HEPPOLETTE VIOLATION OF CLEARING at 175-177 Rose Lane (Amanda)**:

* One acre of trees was cleared to accommodate an airstream, while Heppolette wasn’t there. Stacey has advised Heppolette to apply for permits to clear and grade and for steep slopes disturbance, even though the activity already happened. He says he will plant 50 trees as replacement with sugar maple, red oak and white oak. He wants to take the downed trees out, cut them as low as possible and then plant the trees. Amanda wants a site visit. EnCB’s role is to go on site visit, and will comment to that effect. The clearing and grading control law is applicable for disturbances greater than ten thousand square feet. Once it is exceeded, a permit is required.

**FERRIS WOODS (Amanda):**

* Ferris Woods returned to Planning Bd. Original wetland inspector never issued NOD. Proposed well location was moved back into wetland buffer, which requires a town wetland permit. Number of units reduced to 48. Bd. needs to determine if the site is contiguous to the Empire State Trail, which would make the project a Type 1 action under SEQR. Ingrid suggests postponing written comments until after site visit. EnCB strongly feels any impact to the wetland buffer should be avoided, if there’s an alternative and is unclear why the plan changed. Amanda requested a site visit (ideally with wetland inspector), which applicant agreed to, but applicant does not want ENCB present.
* Ingrid reads Michael Zierlier email/letter re: status of Gateway rezoning. They are still making updates in response to feedback received.
* Rose makes motion to approve letter that we strongly discourage drilling wells in wetland buffer, with concern for aquifer. EnCB will encourage applicant to use former site plan, in which they agreed to alternate well location, and encourage Planning bd. to take this into consideration. All in favor.

**TRANSHUDSON (Amanda):**

* Transhudson will attend June 24 Planning Bd. meeting. They were supposed to get their protocol approved with our engineer. Amanda hasn’t heard anything and is unclear what they are coming back with. Ted will attend June 24 meeting.

Planning Board liaison schedule:

July 8 – Yoni/Janelle to be asked by Ingrid

July 22 – Rose

August 12 - Rich

August 26 – Rose

September 9 - Kenji

Septmeber 23 – Rich

October 15 -

October 28 –

**TRIB 13 (Ingrid):**

* Riverkeeper contacted Ingrid to inquire level of commitment to move ahead with ideas generated by report from workshop last fall. Nancy was our liaison to Trib 13 group, developed a sampling plan for this season and did a round of sampling. Per Ingrid, we need one or two people to keep it going. Nancy worked with Kenji, but Nancy is out now, and Ingrid wants to know what’s going on. Rachel and Don volunteered from EPB, which spent money on testing. Kenji will follow up with John Gotto about the sampling underway. Ted will ask Rachel to contact Kenji and follow up with a report, if anything was done with recommendations.
* Joe Bergstein submitted an “Environmental Issue and Recommended Remedy Form, which would be like a citizens’ arrest. Ted moves to review it over the next month. All in favor.

**PLASTIC BAG BAN (Ted):**

* Ted will discuss this tomorrow at EPB. There is great confusion if local law goes into effect before state law. Ted will try to reach Amanda Lavalle. She’s rolling out the county law which goes into effect next month.

**BEE CITY (Rose):**

* Rose is still working on it and is unsure whether she needs many endorsements. Garden club gave endorsement letter, but waits to get it back. Town Board wants Rose to make a presentation with clear description of what will be done and by whom. The town wants to see more elaboration, and a more detailed implementation plan. Rose will propose next month with more details on what Bee City entails. Regarding bee ordinance in the village, the Mayor decided not to take action to remove the word bee.
* Regatta will take place June 23. Since Earth Day weather was bad, with little turn out, Rose could use poster from Xerxes Society at this event to promote Bee City.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Jen Metzger introduced Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act for Ulster County, which passed today. This will allow communities to raise funds for preserving open spaces, unique ecological areas, agricultural lands and historic places.
* No update on CEA proposal. Ingrid checked with Neil ten days ago and didn’t want to do anything until he heard from Rick Golden, the attorney, who has concerns regarding the size of the areas. Ingrid spoke with other lawyers who don’t agree. Ingrid needs to discuss with Neil, and hopes for public hearing in August. Ingrid will email Rick that Wawarsing adopted two large CEA last week.
* EPB needs a replacement. High Schooler is going to college.
* Regarding the beaver on SUNY campus, the recommendation is to call DEC. Public is not allowed to relocate a beaver.
* Feedback on letter to John Shupe and stream buffer issue; eliminate screening benefit sentence and removing water quality sampling. All in favor for Ingrid to send letter.
* Solar Committee has put out an RFP to install solar at the NPZ landfill. The winning bid will have the right to put in a solar facility. We are 1-2 meetings away from a proposed solar law. Bids are due July 26.
* Ingrid encourages everyone to contact Kevin Cahill’s office to support the community preservation act.
* August 11 is best date for picnic/potluck for ENCB. Please RSVP to Ingrid.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm