Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board July 10, 2019 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Rose Rudnitski, Jim Littlefoot, Susan Stessin-Cohen (prospective member), Rich Whitney, Jonathan Schwartz, Susan Wile.

Public Comment: None Meeting called to order at 7:46pm

Insufficient members to vote on approval of June 12 minutes.

Neil asked Ingrid about the possibility of merging EnCB with the Village EPB, and to boost EnCB membership to 11. EnCB membership maximum is 9. Ingrid is reluctant to have more than 9 members and feels more can be accomplished with 2 boards. Ingrid requests input from EnCB members on this.

**ENCB PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS:**

**LUNATI** (Ingrid)

* Per the owner, they are only moving the property line. The property is currently 3 lots, which will be reduced to 2. EnCB will review the lot line issue, and submit letter Ingrid drafted to the Planning bd. with comments on wildlife. Yoni moves to revise letter and submit to Planning bd. All in favor.

**FERRIS WOODS** (Ingrid)

* EnCB commented several times in 2017 and wrote several letters. Applicant did some work and then moratorium went into effect. In latest submission, the applicant decreased the size of the project from five to four buildings, and is arguing there is substantial mitigation. Everything but the entrance of project has been removed from A1.5 zone. Applicant will need variance to get access from Brouck Ferris. Comments will start from last letter: that wells do not impact water level in wetland or adjacent wells, is storm water management sized appropriately, recommendation for permeable pavement, whether there are septic regulations and maintenance requirements for a system this size, the issue of salt from snow storage, the dog poop issue and disturbance to wildlife. All are in favor of revisions.

**DANSKAMMER** (Jim)

* President of the company made a presentation to Ulster County Conservation bd. This gas-fired power plant is part of the Indian Point shutdown located in Marlboro. The facility will use their own water for cooling, with no water from the Hudson. This is an old plant, which will be a backup plant and is being converted from diesel to gas. Current air quality is B.

**TRANSHUDSON** (Ingrid)

* Transhudson completed a tree inventory. There have been no substantial changes to the site plan in terms of clearing/grading and tree removal. Rebecca Minas identified the proposed septic area as one possible place to preserve trees- but it would require a Village sewer connection. The village has not granted, nor is it inclined to permit access to village sewer, and the village WWTP is almost at capacity. Rebecca Minas indicates applicant needs to come to EnCB for tree removal permit. EnCB recommends further pursuit of the Village sewer connection to save trees. EnCB thinks preserving a 65-ft tree buffer along the thruway is important at a minimum to mitigate for proposed tree clearing. Ingrid will review landscaping plan and provide comments. Per Rose, recommend organic landscaping. Ingrid will comment on which trees should preferably be saved. Well test results in June came back ok. Water is potable. Rose will read letter at Planning Bd. meeting.

**HEPPOLETTE**

* Yoni is going on site visit Saturday July 13, at 10am. Ingrid will review specifics with Yoni prior.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT PASSED FOR ULSTER COUNTY**

* Neil interested in establishing a Community Preservation Fund for New Paltz to fund future open space protection efforts. Could possibly be a ballot measure for the 2020 election. CWOSP will be working on that with Scenic Hudson providing support with outreach and polling. Plan must be developed to establish which lands are priority for protection.

**CEA’s** (Ingrid)

* Ingrid met with Neil who wants to respond to Rick Golden’s concerns and agreed to scale back CEA along the Wallkill based on existing floodway protections. Ingrid is also assessing possible ways to further focus the proposed areas. Rick Golden’s comments were - it’s a large area that will require additional review time and additional requests for information from applicants, which could increase costs. CEA’s do not add a regulatory burden, but Rick said it is a regulation because it will change the way the Planning bd. reviews a project in a particular area. Focus should be on the larger properties where future development will most likely be subject to SEQR. Ingrid will forward the letter from Rick.

**BEE CITY** (Rose)

* Rose collected 50 signatures during the Regatta.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Re Plastic Bag Ban, Amanda LaValle indicated to Ingrid that localgovernments can pass their own stricter laws before the State law goes into effect. We have until March 2020 to get a law passed. Yoni and Ted have been working on this issue. Susan Stessin-Cohen wants to be involved in this.
* Ingrid suggests tabling Wildberry discussion
* Nothing new for New Paltz Storage
* Ingrid needs to share the chair of EnCB with a co-chair or vice chair. Work involved is reviewing minutes, posting agenda, work to update website. Amanda should send materials to everyone, not just Ingrid.

Moved to adjourn at 9:37pm.