Town of New Paltz Environmental Conservation Board August 14, 2019 Community Center 7:30pm

Participants: Ingrid Haeckel, Yoni Schwartz, Janelle Peotter, Ted Nitza, Kenji Tierney, Rich Whitney, Rose Rudnitski, Jim Littlefoot, Susan Stessin-Cohn (prospective member), and Susan Wile.

Public Comment: None Meeting called to order at 7:31pm

June 12 Minutes approved by 3 members with 2 abstentions

July 10 Minutes approved by 3 members with 2 abstentions

**EnCB PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS:**

* Ferris Woods:

Rich attended Planning bd. meeting with discussion re SEQR application and where to drill. Interpretation on drill site will go to wetlands inspector.

* TransHudson/CVS:

The Planning Board made a negative declaration under SEQR and cannot reopen it. TransHudson will return to next Planning bd. meeting with ongoing iteration process. New lawyer representing project opponents attended meeting and presented good arguments. Yoni suggests synthesizing EnCB’s letters for attorney. Rose will synthesize and bullet previous letter.

* TOWRIFIC AUTO

Ingrid attended site visit. This is a narrow residential wooded lot in zone B2 with plenty of wetland and possibly vernal pool. Applicant needs a professional delineation. EnCB will wait to comment.

* NEW PALTZ STORAGE WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION:

Question re whether applicant needs a town wetland permit. He does, since he is disturbing the buffer area for storm water management. EnCB has no comments at this time. All in favor.

* WILDBERRY DRAFT EIS:

57-acre lot was old apple orchard with contamination from pesticides. Applicant will remediate soils with proposal to build in phases. Phase one; hotel and one restaurant. Applicant is trying to keep most of the project within B2 zone, and reconfigure the entrance to Paradies Lane. Applicant intends to install filtration basis in wetland with pond. Per DEIS, there is almost no direct impact to wetland. Impact is to wetland buffers. Concerns about traffic and impervious surfaces discussed. Applicant made a determination that permeable pavement is not feasible. EnCB will work on identifying major issues and draft comments. Rich will review storm water. Rose will review landscaping. EnCB will discuss in detail at next meeting.

* PB LIAISON:

August 26 – Rose

September 9 – Kenji

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

* Ingrid seeks a co/vice chair to help create agendas and post materials to website. Rose volunteers. Rosanna will assist Rose re posting letters to site.
* **CEA proposal update (Ingrid)**: Shared memo with Planning bd. attorney and after meeting with Neil in June, Ingrid revised scope with significant reductions to Wallkill CEA. Since floodplain regulations already restrict development in the floodway, the changes to not compromise the proposal. Ingrid supports Millbrook preserve in CEA, but this should come from village. Ingrid opted for an inclusive delineation of the Shawangunk area in part following the lead of the Town of Shawangunk, which designed the entirety of their portion of the Ridge as a CEA.

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BD. UPDATE (Ted):**

* New members added; Don Kerr and Alex Wojcik. There is still one vacancy set aside for high schooler.
* The EPB passed a letter supporting a detailed review and consideration of TransHudson.
* EPB is reviewing laws regarding vehicle idling and will update the village laws. EPB will also review zoning laws as it relates to fossil fuel facilities, i.e. gas stations, natural gas peaking plant (Danskammer in Orange Co.)
* Don Kerr is drafting language on plastic bag ban to include village restaurants, to be presented to town bd. Ted suggests EnCB have a liaison working with Don.
* SUNY had change of heart and the beavers are safe.
* EPB wants to continue to combine forces with EnCB. Ingrid proposes a combined October meeting.
* Landfill Solar Update – Ted very encouraged by 3 bids from solar developers.

**COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Jim):**

* Jim spoke with Neil a few days ago re LED lights. Neil reported that Central Hudson is giving him a hard time. Neil wants to incorporate LED lights and work with Rosendale to reduce cost. Savings will be up to $84K/yearly. Jim will contact Neil this week again.

**CLIMATE SMART UPDATE (Janelle):**

* New Paltz is conducting a vulnerability study to measure citizen perceptions. Climate smart is about mitigating and adapting to climate change. Climate Smart will have a table at the Wallkill with a hotspot and offer paper surveys. Climate Survey available online at forms.gle/8VE7PQkzxKE99gySA
* The town and village have different tracks regarding LED lights. Janelle will follow up with Neil.
* Climate Smart is conducting monthly meet ups, the first Tuesday of each month from 6-8pm on various topics. The next meet-up is September 6. Topics are about incorporating climate smart into our lives. Mowing is next issue, “Honey I shrunk the lawn.” Future meet-ups will be on “Repair Café.”
* An all-day training September 30 is for updating and implementation of “complete streets” for both the village and the town. Complete Streets is about equal access for pedestrians and bikes.
* On September 21, an all-day Climate Solutions Summit to be held at SUNY with a zero emissions parade at 3:30 with an electric car show.

**SOLAR COMMITTEE (Janelle):**

* Getting close to solar law being completed. Once finalized, they will go to town bd. for review process with EnCB to review and comment. The point is to allow solar development while maintaining viewsheds, etc.

**PLASTIC BAG BAN (Susan Stessin-Cohen):**

* Susan has been working on the law for 2 years trying to get bd. to remove the word plastic so that no plastic is allowed. Susan has been in contact with the State, which will put out a F&Q. Per Ingrid, the town should adopt a law before March 2020. Susan wants the dry cleaners to be part of new law. Concern there’s not a lot of time if the town wants to adopt something by March 2020. Per Ingrid, Susan should contact Amanda LaValle to determine which law takes precedent.

**BEE CITY USA (Rose):**

* Rose needs support and needs to be on the EnCB agenda earlier. The town would like a Bee City committee and know who will do what with a clear work plan. (Climate Smart has action groups – Liz Elkin in charge and would specifically include this issue.)

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE FORM (submitted by Joe Bergstein):**

* There is already a process in place. The form seems redundant. There has been no feedback, and the public can email EnCB. The bigger issue is getting the EnCBs’ work out in the public so they know what EnCB is doing. Janelle suggested that Climate Smart decided each member would write an article for NPZ times on what the group is doing. Each EnCB members could take turns writing to NPZ times on issues. Ingrid will bring this up next month.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

* Ingrid will lead two habitat workshops to identify and understand habitat types. Hudsonia/DEC Recognizing Habitats Workshops: Friday, September 6 from 2-5pm at Norrie Point and another September 20 at Hudson Highlands Nature Museum from 2-5pm.
* NOVEMBER 14 or 15 Scenic Hudson will conduct a program on establishing community preservation funds. Open space finance?

Meeting adjourned 9:38pm