

FINAL MINUTES

Town of New Paltz
Environmental Conservation Board
April 8, 2015
Community Center
7:30 pm

Participants: Jim, Libby, Laura, Mike, Joe, Rhett. Dan Torres, Town Board is also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Agenda:

Public Comment: Peter Cody of Gunk Climbers Coalition made a presentation to jointly seated EnCB and CWOSP (Clean Water Open Space Protection) Commission. GCC is a volunteer stewardship and advocacy organization that does trail repair, etc. Asked Minnewaska State Park in 2010 to expand climbing opportunities there, but there has been no forward motion. GCC is trying to open discussion back up with a letter campaign and would like one from Town of New Paltz, asking for them to do an assessment of resources so as to protect them. Mike asked what would the benefit to the town be, and Libby asked what would the benefit be to Minnewaska. Cody said climbers boost the economy and provide a good volunteer base. He would like climbers to have a relationship with MSP similar to the one they have with Mohonk Preserve. He was told to draft a letter for input.

Review/Approval of March Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike and seconded by Laura. Motion passed 6-0.

Norman Turner Recognition/Memorial tree planting: April 25 memorial to be held at Turner home. Jim went to the proposed site at Harcourt-Nyquist Preserve, a knoll off the trail to the left after the bridge, and put a marker there. Type of tree still under discussion; perhaps a sycamore. Laura will speak with Tom Nyquist about plaque/stone marker. Ideas about the wording can be exchanged by e-mail.... "In honor of"? "Environmentalism and Artist?"

Planning Board Projects Status:

- Wildberry Lodge discussion of height variance and footprint reduction; visual analysis supplement added to DEIS (Libby): Tabled; still no response from engineer.
- 25 Elliotts Lane clearing and grading (Letter by Jim with comments and tree advice): Jim recommends no taking down of trees. Swampy, erosion. He will e-mail everyone his comments.
- CVS revised proposal (Mike D): Tabled as Mike did not bring the proposal.

- 403 Main Street – Demo of 87 Motel (review/comments by Joe): Joe would like to credit Laura Pettit at the transfer station. Theme of letter is beneficial re-use of materials whenever possible, recommends they explore demo facilities that will accept clean fill and materials. Mike made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by Joe. All in favor. Joe will e-mail letter to Rhett for letterhead and distribution.
- 181 Huguenot (Jewett Farm Subdivision) (initial submission): Mike took a look, seems benign, separating off of barn and ten acres. One lot is ag-use only and there are conservation easement restrictions limiting additional building. No EnCB comment.
- Mohonk Preserve; both 19 acre subdivision and 836 acre foothills project: The updated information is that the intent is for Town to be lead agency. More detail on the 19-acre lot is given. A conservation easement will prohibit further subdivision.

Discussions:

- Ulster County Environmental Management Council Meeting Report (Jim): Will circulate report via e-mail.
- Parking Lots subcommittee/MS4 designation coordination (Joe): MS4 compliance requires annual report to DEC due June 1. Adherence to stormwater management plan is subject to DEC audit for compliance. Possible monetary fine. Town should be concerned about schedule and should do pre-audit. Maybe get Cornell Cooperative Extension to do presentation to appropriate groups on stormwater. Other towns affected are Rosendale, Plattekill, Poughkeepsie etc. There are six minimum control measures. Joe will send Jim a list and Jim will go to Town Clerk to see reports on progress, if any.
- Joint meeting with the Village Environmental board (Joe): MS4 compliance not cheap; need funds to implement, good example of why grant writer is needed. Letter regarding getting a grant writer was revised to recommend that the chairs of various town committees meet to discuss their needs, and to include Gail Gallagher's comments in agreement. Will revise and send out.

New Business

EnCB laptop: Lack of laptop was bemoaned. It has been a year and a half since we requested a replacement. Jeanne and then Mike have been volunteering their personal laptops but tonight's minutes had to be recorded by hand as one was not available.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike and seconded by Libby. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.