

**Town of Esopus
Environmental Board Minutes**

January 20, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Esopus Town Hall Community Room

Attendees:

Kathie Quick

Shari Aber

Mark Ellison, Chairperson

Jennifer Barrows

Rosaline Williamson

Gloria VanVliet- Esopus Town Board Liaison

Shelia Pratt- Board Secretary

Annmarie Belfiglio

George Williamson

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of November Minutes - Motion by K. Quick, Second by Mark. All members vote in favor to approve.

Old Business-

1. **Community Garden-** Sheila – Will contact Linda at The Birches in March to talk about the 2016 garden. Sheila received an email she forwarded to Mark regarding the Master Gardner's at Cornell Cooperative Extension offering their assistance in Gardening Education and wondered if the board would like to have them as a guest at a future meeting.
2. **Educational Forum-** Shari Aber has made contact with Nate Nardi-Cyrus, Scenic Hudson, and will be planning a spring forum for the public. Possibly re: Invasive Species.
3. **Pilgrim Pipeline** – The Esopus Town Board voted in favor of DEC not the NYS Thruway Authority being the lead agency in this project. The concerns are for ecologically sensitive areas and land use access not being violated as well as the condition of the trains carrying the crude. Members discussed the negative aspects of crude refining coming to this area and the damaging effects not properly monitored.
4. **Tidal Rondout Watershed Management** - Mark discusses Carol Tomasetti's and the water quality report she sent and spoke about at the December meeting. Cathy noted that planting Fragmyte to assist in decreasing water runoff and Mark suggested working together with Waterfront Advisory to search for grant funding to assist both boards. Possibly Nate from Scenic Hudson would be the person to contact for a plant species for that area, Cathy noted that previously she has been referred to U. C. Soil and Water for that information.

New Business-

EDUCATIONAL/ WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITES –

- Board Member Contact sheet – Corrections are made to the list as we go through the information and discuss the change in time/date of the meeting fits better to member's schedules.
- LULA Training – Per Mark and Rev. Barrows – Zoning workshops were advertised, Sheila will forward to Mark any FREE training offered by DEC/DEP, etc.
Sapling Project – Mark would like to research having this program again, Gloria states there is money in the budget for this; she and Cathy share stories of previous years that were very successful at the old Town Hall.
- Pilgrim Pipeline- All members agree and express support of Town Board decision that DEC should be Lead Agency in SEQRA. Townships and NYS Thruway should not be Lead Agency.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS - Board Meeting Dates/times- Discussion of membership missing meetings, and more convenient times resulted in need to move meetings to third Wednesday of month, 7:30 pm & seemed to fit members schedules better. Mark asks for members to ask around for interested candidates and added that the Town will advertise on Channel 23 as soon as possible. S. Pratt will speak with Holly about membership and talk about having a winter get together in the Community Room for the public to be aware of the Environmental Board's mission and the vacancy.

POTENTIAL REFERRALS - Mark announces Planning Board decision to include Environmental Board in upcoming cases that will have direct environmental impacts to Town properties. Mark states that the two applications are not being referred to this board at this time but are before the Zoning Board at present. He notes the positive of having the input on the future of this area and notes that the direction of business seems to be heading more commercial than residential. After discussion by various members of past properties and changes to them that have overall changed the Town of Esopus

Mark asks if there are any other comments for New Business, no comments from any member so he then asks for a motion to adjourn, Annemarie motions and Rev. Barrows seconds. All members vote in favor to adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 17th, 2016 7:30 p.m. TOE Community Room

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sheila Pratt -Secretary
January 24, 2016