

TOWN OF ESOPUS
P.O. Box 700
Port Ewen, NY
TOWN OF ESOPUS ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Meeting Notes

January 17, 2018

Members Present:

Mark Ellison, Chairperson
Cynthia McVay
Laurie Sheridan
Stephanie Erwin (by Phone)

Members Absent:

Bianca Capuano
Francesca Sansone

Guests: Shannon Harris, TOE Supervisor; Laura Petit, UC Legislator

TB Liaison: Kathie Quick

Secretary: Stephanie Erwin

Meeting called to order: 7:03pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business:

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New Business:

Shannon Harris, Supervisor, Town of Esopus

- Climate Smart Community Designation on the agenda
- Comprehensive Town Plan Updated - 1st Priority
 - Based on market analysis, economic forecasting, community input
 - Professional planner to facilitate process
 - Future industries and projections
 - Connectivity between hamlets
- Action Plan - February through May
 - Draft in June → big grants are due
 - Roundtable over 2-3-week period of time to approve draft
- Priorities: economic development, Marketing, Attract businesses and tourists
- Bolster committees
 - Economic Development Committee
 - Planning Board
 - Zoning Board
 - Recreation Commission
 - Water/Sewer Board
 - Environmental Board
 - Big communication/promotion to survey stakeholders
- Policy Updates:
 - Wants to get protocols in place for emergencies (current focus)
 - policy/personnel → lively highway department
 - Zoning and land use policies will be triggered by Master Plan updates
 - Capital investments & reserves
 - Taxes: talking with collector, lot of confusion over taxes, wants to clarify Esopus' policies & benchmark against other neighboring towns
 - Each fire department has a different tax base
 - Finish by next year's taxes
- Climate Smart Pledge- Town to approve 1/18

- Shannon to email
- July grant opportunity if we fulfill pledge
- Shannon wants to review with Town Board before taking next steps
- Subcommittee
- Hudson Riverfront Alliance - town passed resolution to join including coast guard's planning committee
- Stephanie to attend Hudson Valley Regional Council monthly meetings
- Grant for nature education program for middle and high school students

General Environmental Board Updates

- 3 current openings on the Env Board.
- Env. Management Council meeting last wed
- Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting next week
- Economic Development Committee to meet next Thurs
 - December Meeting: big push for comprehensive plan (last revised in 1994)
- Climate Smart Community Pledge
 - Review of current status, including TOE former resolution
 - Stephanie is official coordinator
 - "Standard pledges"
 - Question: are there any communications about this process? Communications plan is necessary. How can community join their individual efforts to community efforts? Are there tax incentives or giveaway programs that ppl can leverage?
 - EV for building inspector?
 - Charging stations near trailheads? Are there power lines near the trailheads?
 - GHG accounting, competitions between hamlets?
 - Get numbers from Central Hudson, Waste Management, Recycling & Transfer station
 - What percent is under parks or preserves? (easement, green space, etc)
- George Franz: would like our input on scenic resources document/packet
 - Have revamped and changed weighted numbers
 - Reason they didn't mention Wallkill? Unknown
 - Lingering questions over selection process → historic vs scenic
 - Making case for renovating over tearing down historic or older buildings?
 - Tracking impermeable and paved services → comprehensive plan committee?
 - Scenic issue? (Proximity to asphalt and paved surfaces)
 - walkability/bikeability
 - Sea level rise → understanding climate smart development
 - Runoff issues
 - Grants for trails & scenic resources at the state and county level?
 - Suggested extra column with names so they are recognizable
 - Group thinks it looks like some sites are missing...
 - Planning to have George come back in March
- Empire State Trail
 - NYC to Albany
 - Both sides of river
 - Walkway to New Paltz, completely around Esopus (ignored)
 - Trying to incorporate Esopus into the trail

Next Meeting - February 21, 2017 7:00 pm TOE Community Room

Submitted by Stephanie Erwin