

TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Ellison, Chairperson  
Karen Helgers  
Francesca Sansone

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Stephanie Erwin  
Laurie Sheridan  
Cynthia McVay

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Supervisor Shannon Harris  
County Legislator Laura Petit  
Town Board Liaison Kathie Quick  
Conf. Secretary Karen Winkle-Gorsline

Chairman Mark Ellison commenced the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04 p.m. and provided meeting Agendas for distribution. Ellison acknowledged candidates Susan Barbarisi and Susan Leiching as potential new members to the Environmental Board.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Gloria Waslyn – Parrots for Peace – was introduced as special guest for the evening. Ms. Waslyn was not able to bring the parrots with her but proceeded with the background of how “Parrots of Peace” came to exist and their involvement with entities such as Pete Seeger and the Clearwater, appearances at Ground Zero after 9/11, and appearances at the United Nations. Ms. Waslyn presented the blue and gold Macaws as ambassadors for the protection of the environment and promoting harmony spiritually.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Harris subsequently addressed the Environmental Board and distributed handouts pertinent to new Task Forces recommended under the various Committees. Consultants had been retained to help expedite the research process of the draft Comprehensive Plan. The draft Plan was at the stage to soon be presented to the Town Board and the strategy now was to implement the volunteer Boards and Committees to address concerns voiced by the community heard during the process. There were two common concerns voiced that were under the purview of the Environmental Board – one of which being the stormwater drainage plan for the Town and the other being continued development of climate smart initiatives.

Daniel Valentine, Project Manager of Tighe & Bond spoke to the Board relative to a proposal for a Stormwater Infrastructure Assessment & Capital Improvement Plan. The firm was setting groundwork for data necessary to provide in support of request for grant program.

Supervisor Harris now tasked the Committee with the creation of two taskforces – Climate Smart Taskforce & Stormwater Taskforce – to meet and emerge with a report as to what are the Town’s and ultimately, the residents’ issues and what specific grants may be available to support the projected goals of the Town Plan.

Handouts provided by the Town of Ulster Citizens.org relative to the GlidePath were circulated. The concerns this agency had on the environment was discussed. Ellison suggested that it may be discussed and address concerns to the Town Board at a later date.

There were presently three vacancies on the Environmental Board. Susan Barbarisi and Susan Leiching addressed the Board and provided a bit of biography and assets they had to contribute as potential members of the Environmental Board. Chairman Ellison introduced Lisa Mance as new secretary for the Environmental Board.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The next meeting of the UC Environmental Management Council – next meeting on January 30, 2019.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee – next meeting on January 23, 2019, 4 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will be finalizing the final draft of Comprehensive Plan (of which the Environmental Board had provided valuable input that was included).

Ellison noted that an important task to complete was the focus on getting greenhouse gas inventory spreadsheet completed. February 27 webinar on Climate Action Planning Process which may prove beneficial.

Discussion with Legislator Laura Petit with regard to budget and updates relative to Solarize Esopus and the reusable bags were discussed. There were funds available which the Board should look into where those funds may be invested.

January 31, 2019 - Chairman Ellison and Legislator Petit had been invited by Supervisor Harris to visit with the Principal of Robert Graves School to investigate the viability of a solar farm at that site.

The meeting ended at 9:17 p.m.

**NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING: February 20, 2019**  
**NEXT GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Diane Dintruff**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Mance, Board Secretary