

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Ellison
Don Carragher
Chris DeCicco
Noel Russ
Susan Barbarisi
Susan Leiching

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Cynthia McVay

ALSO PRESENT:

Legislator Laura Petit
Council Liaison Kathy Quick
Stephen Cerini
Cal Trumann

Regular Business of Environmental Board – Commenced at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge.

Don Carragher provided update relative to a conversation he'd had with Town Supervisor following the Emergency Preparedness Course presented in the Town of Esopus. Sites throughout the County were being encouraged and Mr. Carragher was looking into what it would involve to determine if Town Hall was capable of being a "stand alone" structure. Hugo Jewels and Cal Trumann of the County Climate Smart Committee had offered to assess the Town Library solar array and were willing to assist in looking at Town Hall solar array as well and the possibility of battery storage systems.

Membership –Chris DeCicco re-introduced himself for the benefit of Chairman Ellison and other members who had not yet had an opportunity to personally meet him. Cal Trumann is a local resident working for Sun Common, a member of the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee and provides training and education relative to renewable energy. Steve Cerini is an Ulster Park resident with an expressed desire to be the voice for those creatures in the environment that have none.

Discussion – Chairman Ellison circulated the Town's Environmental Board mission statement and referenced Chapter 9 of the Esopus Town Code which addresses the Environmental Board, indicating that these would be e-mailed.

Old Business:

Composting Campaign – There were currently 16 composting bins still available to be distributed. Legislator Petit was amenable to filming a composting training 101 session. Chairman Ellison would make arrangements with Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean for filming with Steve Cerini and Members Carragher and Barbarisi willing to participate as part of the audience. The date for the videotaping was set for March 18, 2020 at 5:45 p.m. (March 19, 2020 snow date) in the Community Room, Town Hall.

New Business:

The Town's Zoning Task Force was hosting a zoning update session at the Esopus Fire House and wished all members of the Environmental Board to attend. As such, there would be no February meeting of the Environmental Board.

Chairman Ellison noted important dates for 2020. The NYS DEC was circulating availability of seedlings that could be distributed on Earth Day. Members agreed on 3 types for \$150.00 – pollinator friendly, Dogwood and Black Walnut.

Council liaison Quick provided an update relative to the Dynobel site. The cleanup was now up to a commercial standard rather than a light industrial standard.

Legislator Petit stated a new composting law going into effect July 1, 2020 and coordinating with local food pantries and coordinating with volunteers and public awareness would help prepare. "Just Eat It" was a movie which Legislator Petit was willing to show on March 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (Secretary Mance to confirm room availability).

2020 goals and objectives of the EB were tabled until the March meeting with Members being asked to review code and mission statement and come back with a listing of goals and objectives.

Climate Smart Task Force:

Don Carragher circulated excerpt of the Governor's State of the State addressed (annexed hereto and made a part hereof). Mr. Carragher also noted that the next meeting of the Town's Zoning Task Force was February 11, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

A new version of the NYSERDA Climate Smart Communities matrix had been published in January. As Coordinator, Don Carragher reviewed the 5 actions he found that were attainable goals/actions by the Members. This included 5.13 (waste reduction education campaign); 3.20 (recycling bins in government buildings); 5.10 (provide compost bins to residents); 3.15 (LED street lights); and 3.1 (government buildings energy audits). Assignments were as follows with Members to complete assignment within 3 months:

- 3.1 – Susan B & Mark E
- 5.13 – Steve C., Cal T. & Laura P.
- 3.20 – Noel R & Susan L.
- 3.15 – Chris D. Mark E & Mark E.;
- 5.10 – Laura P.

Coordinator Carragher encouraged anyone with questions to call him for assistance.

NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING: March 18, 2020

The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: January 29, 2020

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved June 14, 2020