

TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING – VIA ZOOM  
JANUARY 20, 2021 MINUTES – 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Ellison  
Christopher DeCicco  
Noel Russ  
Cynthia McVay  
Stephen Cerini

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Don Carragher

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Council Liaison Kathy Quick  
Legislator Laura Petit  
Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean  
Secretary Lisa Mance

***Regular Business of Environmental Board***

Chairman called for a Motion to approve the December 16, 2020 Minutes (as amended). Upon Motion of Mark Ellison, seconded by Noel Russ and all in favor, minutes were approved.

***Membership Status*** –Discussion took place as to protocol for updating Oaths of Office. Environmental Secretary would work out a process with the Town Clerk to effectuate the signature of the Oaths. There were currently 3 vacancies and it was noted that applications were welcomed. Legislator Petit noted that applicants for the UCRRA were being sought and noted that an active member of the Esopus Environmental Board would be considered. Legislator Petit indicated that she had interest in joining the Environmental Board but would need to determine what the goals for the year (including a review of the Comprehensive Plan) were in the upcoming months to assist helping to make her make a decision on how effective she could be.

***Conservation Advisory Board - Status Update-***

Mark Ellison provided an overview of the Town Board’s comments regarding the CAB status and the proposal to the Town Board. Liaison Councilperson Kathy Quick remarked that the Town Board would prefer specifics as to what the proposed board would like to achieve. Councilperson Quick noted the specific duties of the each Board and clarification by the Environmental Board relative to its objective would be advantageous.

Chairman Ellison noted that an upcoming training seminar conducted by the Hudson River Estuary Program conducted by Ingrid Haeckel Land Use Webinar may be beneficial and that grant funding and technical assistance would be provided that may be beneficial to the Environmental Board in creating a Natural Resource Inventory and promote the goals of the EB to support its request to become a CAB. Legislator Petit volunteered to provide additional information to support that goal. **She requested an NRI/Open Space Report to be placed on the Agenda.**

Monthly meeting dates were reviewed and the most crucial was December 22, 2021, to be determined closer to that date, subject to change. Councilperson Quick noted that any calendar dates required appropriate public notification.

***Waterfront Advisory Board –***

Cynthia Liaison is the EB Liaison to the WAB. The Riverfront Access and Connections Study had been conducted and shared with the EB Members.

***Draft Zero Waste Action Plan -***

Legislator Petit informed that the Plan had been taken off the Legislative agenda and the document was being entirely re-written. Cynthia McVay was encouraged to provide her comments. Laura added that it was an item that should be on the EB Agenda and may help to earn points for the Climate Smart certification. A plan specific to the Town of Esopus was discussed.

***Raymond Yannone*** proposal – Waterfront Advisory Board had received documentation from New York State. Planner Matt Rogers contacted Chairman Ellison asking for information relative to the Carex Frankii study and Sleightsburgh Park to which Chairman Ellison had responded and wanted to make sure all EB members had received the information and response.

Chairman Ellison would continue to provide upcoming webinars to Members and provided upcoming webinars information for those interested.

***Environmental Board –***

The Town Board had entertained a development application at its meeting the evening prior due to the Town Board's creation of a Floating Mixed Use Zone. Laura Petit offered to work with Steve Cerini to apply for grants available for landscaping along the Route 9W corridor and beautification plans for the Town of Esopus. Councilperson Quick noted that the time to provide recommendations relative to landscaping would be when the formal application was before the Planning Board. Councilperson Quick stated that a request had been put forth for the Environmental Board to provide specifics relative to its vision and Chairman Ellison would be providing information. Members were asked to bring ideas to the next meeting to schedule an April/May date to provide education materials – sapling giveaway, swap, etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, February 15, 2021

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved February 17, 2021