

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING – VIA ZOOM
APRIL 21, 2021 MINUTES – 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Ellison
Stephen Cerini
Noel Russ
Cynthia McVay

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Chris DeCicco

ALSO PRESENT:

Matt Rogers Senior Planner
Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean
Council Person Kathy Quick
Reed Freer (student)

Chairman Ellison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Ellison had forward March 25, 2021 Work Program and proposal from Matt Rogers.

Matt Rogers provided an overview. Proposal had been provided to Supervisor Geuss and a telephone conference had taken place with the Supervisor and Legislator Petit. The services of LaBerge Group to assist the EB through the suggested short-term Climate Smart Communities (CSC) and Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Work Program would cost between \$12,000 to \$15,000.00

Laura Petit inquired if Matt had an hourly rate rather than a full contract. Matt stated he could bill hourly. David Gilmour would be more involved with the Greenhouse Gas Inventory if the EB moved forward with utilizing the services of the LaBerge Group.

A key item would be to go through the Work Program and determine which actions would require the services of LaBerge. Cynthia McVay inquired how much “heavy lifting” would be required by the EB. Many of the tasks in the proposal would be the responsibility of LaBerge Group and other action items could be completed by EB but Matt stated that until the proposal was reviewed line by line, responsibility could not confirmed at this point.

Matt recommended that the EB members discuss and provide input after he left meeting.

Matt provided an update relative to the Estuary Grant which could fund Open Space Natural Resource Plan if the Town chose to move forward. LaBerge Group had submitted a proposal for the grant which was due June 2, 2021. The Greenway Grant is due May 7, 2021 and would be in line with purchasing kiosks and pay for materials to improve trails.

Regular Business of Environmental Board –

Old Business

Minutes – Upon Motion of Chairman Ellison, seconded by Cynthia McVay, the February and March Minutes were approved, as amended.

Membership Status – Laura Petit’s appointment was pending before the Town Board. 4 member openings exist.

UC EMC – March Minutes had been provided

Hudson 7 – CHPE Project – No new information.

May 22, 2021 Promotion-Info-Swap-Pollinators – 4 different types of pollinator saplings would be in for distribution. Laura Petit had purchased pollinator seeds and childrens’ watering cans. Stephen Cerini had obtained 60 packets of seeds. Master Gardiner Margery Pullman would be present to educate on planting for pollinators. Chairman Ellison indicated publicity of the event was needed. Laura Petit indicated she could prepare flyers. Chris DeCicco’s niece was being contacted for poster to place at the transfer station prior to the event. Alex Dean indicated information could be placed on the Town website. Cynthia McVay agreed to create a promotional flyer to distribute which would include sapling/seedling giveaway and composting education. Alex Dean had a list of locations to distribute. One the page was on the website, Alex would be able to provide QR Code.

New Business:

TOE Environmental Board Goals/Visions table for May

Sleightsburgh Riverkeeper Cleanup scheduled for May 1st - Ryker Park, Sleightsburg Park and Lighthouse Park still looking for volunteers.

New Business- Laura Petit encouraged the EB drafting letter of support to include in any grant application made by the Town.

Climate Smart Task Force

Laura Petit noted actions that had been completed and actions that the Committee should pursue. She would like to assign tasks at the next meeting and pull documentation together to submit to the DEC to get the Town certified. Noel Russ had PDF to provide to Laura Petit. Alex Dean volunteered to create Google sheet and documents and links could be added to the sheet.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:16 p.m. by Chairman Mark Ellison, seconded by Noel Russ.

Alex Dean , Councilperson Quick and Reed Freer left the Zoom meeting. It was determined that there was no quorum. The Members present determined that it was not ready to proceed with Matt Rogers’ proposal.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, July 1, 2021

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved