

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING – VIA ZOOM
JULY 15, 2021 MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Mark Ellison
Christopher DeCicco
Climate Smart Chair Laura Petit
Noel Russ
Cynthia McVay

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:

Council Liaison Kathy Quick
Confidential Assistant Alex Dean
Secretary Lisa Mance
Brent Gosch, Cornell Cooperative
Melinda Herzog, Cornell Cooperative
Elizabeth TenDyke

Meeting commenced at 7:11 p.m.

Presentation

Melinda Herzog and Brent Gosch of the Cornell Cooperative introducing Climate Smart Tool. Need one contact person to start communications and verify what documents exist within the Town. Checklist will be provided to Mark Ellison. Ms. Herzog asked that an e-mail be sent to the Town Clerk as an introduction. Brent Gosch stated the initial step was to obtain all documentation available. Kathy Quick agreed to contact Town Clerk and Diane McCord to assist in obtaining list of documents. Meeting needed with Building Department, Transportation and Supervisor's office.

Regular Business of Environmental Board

Chairman called for a Motion to approve the May notes. Upon Motion of Laura Petit, seconded by Noel Russ and all in favor, notes were approved.

Membership Status -There were currently four (4) member vacancies on the Board.

Ulster County Environmental Council – No minutes (Secretary had retired).

Mark asked that the request for a new secretary be put on website and EB would reach out to Town Clerk. Alex would reach out to the website administrator to see what could be done with the Town website.

New Business

Carex Frankii Survey- Kathie Quick noted that very many plants were similar and time to count was running out. Mark checking calendar to coordinate count – Kathie indicated Monday or Tuesday of the following week would work, weather looked good and invited anyone to assist. Laura was available very early Monday and on Tuesday. DEC requires that the Town monitor the plant but Central Hudson clears the plants to maintain the gas line easement. Mark has never been able to identify the individual responsible for cutting in an attempt to schedule counting prior to the cutting. Laura added that maybe locations for Boyscout Bluebird house sites could be located.

Special Events – Laura Petit noted Honeybee Jubilee with Marjorie Pullman, Master Gardiner will be present. Focus will be on agriculture.

Bat-o-ween for October 30 @ the Town Hall with Marjorie Pullman and would like to incorporate climate change and themes behind the event. Noel offered to contact Suncommon to see if they could participate. Mark asked if Cal Truman could be contacted to provide resources. Laura reaching out to Rosendale, Gardiner and New Paltz to see who they use as vendors. Mark would work on creating a poster that could be circulated for outreach. Laura stated that a table should be at the event to promote the Environmental Board (information & recruitment table).

Next food truck is scheduled for August 13, 2021. Music will be provided at Freer Park from 4 – 8 p.m. Laura noted a table could be set up for that as well. She also recommended submitting a budget for the Environmental Board for next year that would help in providing professional color brochures.

Supervisor Geuss had introduced Emily Vail to Chairman Ellison targeting Esopus to provide names for a full day training in the month of October in conjunction with the Town of Lloyd relative to a climate smart resiliency workshop. The list of requested participants included Supervisor, ZBA, PB, WAB, EB to have individuals work together to generate a report.

Special thanks to Chris DeCicco and his brother-in-law for the sapling giveaway.

Climate Smart Task Force – Laura Petit

Town Board had officially reaffirmed the Committee and the Chair. Currently looking at action items and points. There was a website that had the tools and Laura wasn't able to access the data entry site and would reach out.

Looking at locations for EB charging stations (Sojourner Truth Park may be limited). Town Hall was an option to be discussed and impact to electric bill was a consideration. Laura Petit was willing to submit the application for grant. Cynthia inquired if Stewart's could be an option. Laura had reached out to Europa McGovern and the County had indicated that every municipality had taken the pledge to become a climate smart community and she wished to be involved and hoped the County could be involved with Esopus' plan and the hazard mitigation plan. Dollar General in Port Ewen was another consideration and Laura would investigate. Chris DeCicco suggested a location by the Mid-Hudson Federal Credit Union. List of possible locations and acceptance could be developed and voted on. Stretch NY was supported by Building Inspector and Laura asked that the Code be addressed by the Town Board and reached out to Kathie Quick to get onto the Town Board Agenda. Councilwoman Quick indicated that she would reach out.

Next meeting August 18, 2021.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved