

TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING – VIA ZOOM  
AUGUST 19, 2020 MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Ellison, Chairman  
Christopher DeCicco  
Noel Russ  
Susan Barbarisi  
Cynthia McVay  
Stephen Cirini

**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**

Mark Ellison requested that Steve Cerini’s correct email address be confirmed.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Chairman called for a Motion to approve the July 15, 2020 Minutes as revised. Upon Motion of Noel Russ, seconded by Susan Barbarisi and 5 in favor, 1 abstention (Steve Cirini), the minutes were approved.

**Membership Status** -There were currently two (2) member vacancies on the Board.

**Ulster County EMC** – Mark Ellison had provided July Minutes to all Members and would be attending an upcoming meeting.

(Mark Ellison had audio difficulties that would look to be corrected).

**Esopus Zoning Task Force** – Mark Ellison, Susan Barbarisi and Don Carragher had attended. Susan Barbarisi provided an update. The next meeting was scheduled for the following Monday. Addressing motels, State regulations on manufactured homes on permanent foundations, medical marijuana dispensaries, scrap metal regulations, regulating chickens and short term rentals were many items on the ZTF list being considered.

Cynthia McVay inquired as to whether there were specific recommendations that could come out of the Environmental Board. Ms. Barbarisi noted that recommendations from a Board as a whole, were not specifically being heard at this time but would be appropriate to be presented at the Public Hearing that would need to take place. Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean noted in “chat” that any recommendations from the Environmental Board should be provided to the Town prior to a Public Hearing being schooled and comments could be provided to Mark Ellison to provide on behalf of the EB. Discussion ensued relative to a question raised by Cynthia McVay relative to land development, easements and shared driveways. Noel Russ, Susan Barbarisi and Councilwoman Quick provided input regarding the Town’s experience with development and the topic of shared driveways.

Cynthia McVay also inquired as to the regulations required for fill and what accountability was in place for the Town to ensure that it was not toxic. Noel Russ noted that DEC had regulations on what type of fill could be used and could provide DEC regulations for reference.

Discussion took place relative to what input would be acknowledged if the Environmental Board became a Conservation Advisory Council or a Board. Susan Barbarisi and Councilwoman Quick noted that this was a work in progress and many EB issues were not relative to the entire process being considered by the ZTF as a whole. The ZTF needed to move ahead but it was agreed that concerns should be forwarded to Mark Ellison who would provide to the ZTF for consideration.

***Environmental Board Role/Mission –***

Mark Ellison had provided material for consideration as to what the desires of the EB were. Chris DeCicco would be conducting critical thinking sessions so that Mark Ellison would be able to provide input to the Town Board as to the direction the EB wished to pursue. Chris DeCicco indicated that workshops would take place when Don Carragher would be available and stated that he was able to host the workshops independently and would coordinate with Members without the help of office staff. Noel Russ provided the Town of New Paltz requirements for a CAC for reference.

Mark Ellison welcomed input as to which way the EB may wish to proceed as a Town body and what the members' wishes were as to being a Conservation Advisory Council/Board.

**Discussion:**

Cathy Quick noted that it would be advisable to get a volunteer from the EB to attend the Planning Board minutes. Secretary for the Planning Board indicated that records could be provide with the appropriate FOIL...could be accomplished by emails that would serve as FOIL, with appropriate request by email to Town Clerk.

**Climate Smart Task Force**

No current update.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted September 7, 2020

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved: September 16, 2020