

TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING – VIA ZOOM  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Ellison, Chairman  
Christopher DeCicco  
Noel Russ  
Susan Barbarisi  
Cynthia McVay  
Stephen Cerini  
Don Carragher

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Guest Speaker – Tim Guinee- Climate Realty Project 100% Committed Campaign**

Mr. Guinee provided a power point presentation relative to the Governor’s Campaign to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2030 (presentation on file).

Member Stephen Cerini was re-admitted to the Zoom meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**Regular Business of Environmental Board**

Chairman Ellison entertained a Motion to approve the August 19, 2020 Minutes. Upon Motion of Noel Russ, seconded by Member Don Carragher, the Minutes as corrected were approved.

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

**Ulster County EMC** – Mark Ellison had provided Minutes and Agenda to all Members.

**Conservation Advisory Board** – Cynthia McVay, Stephen Cerini and Laura Petit had provided draft Environmental Conservation Board (CAB). Cynthia McVay had used the Kingston CAB as framework for the proposed Esopus ECB, indicating that now would be the forum to state if there were any proposed duties that may be overreaching. Members McVay and Cerini had attended a recent Planning Board Zoom meeting to gain information as to what the Planning Board duties entailed. Town Board Liaison Quick clarified what the duties of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, according to the Town Code were. The question was raised as to what inventories, including but not limited to (Open Space, Stormwater and Natural Resources – had been created and were available). Discussion ensued as to what the draft document should entail and the involvement with other Boards/Agencies. Councilwoman Quick noted that certain applications to the Building Department were not subject to Planning Board or ZBA review and if the application met the Code and, with the Natural Resources Inventory, specific properties, subsequent applications would not be under the purview of the Environmental Board or future ECB. Member McVay provided the strawman document and revisions were made while discussing with Members. Member McVay agreed to create final proposal to present to the Town and would generate to everyone for final review prior to submission to the full Board. Comments were requested to be made by September 23, 2020.

## **New Business:**

### ***Esopus Zoning Task Force –***

Planner Matt Rogers had requested comments on Zoning amendments being proposed (signage, selling cars on properties, C&D debris fill). Discussion ensued as to what amendments would be considered a concern of the Environmental Board. Don Carragher was going to be attending the ZTF meeting September 21<sup>st</sup> and requested any comments by Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Legislator Petit asked that air quality control initiative be included. Don Carragher welcomed any statements of concern to be presented to the ZTF and it wasn't necessary to go through him directly but he was willing to pass along.

***Waterfront Advisory Board Update*** – Councilwoman Quick was currently the liaison for the Town Board and was willing to serve as liaison in 2021 but stated an actual EB Member should serve as liaison. Susan Barbarisi indicated that she would be resigning as EB Liaison to the WAB and Cynthia McVay volunteered to be the EB Liaison to the WAB. Discussion ensued as to the benefits of having an Environmental Board member attending Planning Board as well as other Boards. Councilwoman Quick recounted past experiences and the challenges of the availability of a Planning Board member being a liaison to other Town Boards. The WAB had a sub-taskforce that had been negotiating with the Sleightsburg Spit residents and use by the public. Councilwoman Quick provided a synopsis of what the Subcommittee's report was to the Town Board and what it had involved and the report related to issues that were not environmentally sensitive. Member Cerini inquired as to the work being conducted by Central Hudson for new gas line and the impact on the Carex Frankii. Legislator Petit suggested that there may be a possibility that Central Hudson should be requested to fund the protection/study requested. Councilwoman Quick would approach Supervisor in possibility of requesting Central Hudson's willingness to partially fund.

### ***Composting Initiative***

Legislator Petit volunteered to monitor the remaining compost bin in Connelly if placed.

### **Climate Smart Task Force**

Don Carragher asked that everyone review the website.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted October 20, 2020

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved: October 21, 2020