

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
October 19, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman

Town Board Liaison Evelyn Clarke

Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson

Ellie Gartenstein

Noel Russ

Nina Nichols

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:05 p.m. Individuals were having difficulty getting into the Zoom meeting.

Old Business:

Minutes – Upon Motion of Mark Ellison, seconded by Laura Petit, the July 20, 2022 Minutes were approved with corrections.

Upon Motion of Mark Ellison, seconded by Ellie Gartenstein (Noel Russ abstained), the September 21st Minutes were approved.

Membership – One position still open. Youth volunteer would be good.

UC EMC Minutes had been provided to Members.

Willow trees at Freer Park – Still being investigated by Town Board and would need to be in the budget if the Town were to take them down or prune them. Ellie Gartenstein had been drafting policy to address trees Townwide would have document available at the November Environmental Board meeting. Mark Ellison had visited Freer Park and was concerned that two of the trees appeared to pose a liability issue to the Town. Noel Russ stated that the trees needed to be evaluated by an arborist.

Mark Ellison suggested that a policy similar to what New Paltz had developed be adopted. Noel Russ would investigate. Evelyn Clarke supported a policy put forth by the EB to the Town addressing tree policy Townwide and would investigate what and if a particular budget supported the maintenance of trees. Tree policy tabled to bring up at the November meeting.

Leave the Leaves – held over until Lee Gough was able to discuss.

Nina Nichols inquired if there were funds left in the budget to purchase for pollinator garden to be created next year. Mark would check to see what funds were left from 2022.

Mark Ellison suggested pursuing looking into an acceptable location. Laura Petit suggested possible locations....Town Hall entrance, park bench locations, etc.

New Business:

Repair Café:

Upcoming October 29th coaches named by Laura Petit included Chris DeCicco, Nina Nicholas, Lee Gough, Bob the Whistler, jeweler Sara Frond and Don Grice. Mark Ellison reaching out to additional possible coach. Mark Ellison looking for clearing space. Greeter at next Café will be inside at next event. Laura Petit stated greeter like to get dressed up and they could have some fun with that.

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Lee Gough would be providing future material for pollinators and presentations (including wasps). Laura Petit stated the Hudson Valley Beekeepers were available to present at the next Jubilee.

Climate Smart Task Force –

EV Charging Stations – 2 grant applications were submitted for a dual port at Town Hall and Ross Park – Esopus qualified as a disadvantaged community and could be fully reimbursed.

Sojourner Truth knocked out since it was a State-owned property for location. Dual port at Town Hall and Post Office at Ross Park were submitted. Thanks to Ellie Gartenstein was given for all of the information required to submit the grant applications. Town Supervisor assisted Laura Petit for grant submission which was submitted very quickly to meet the deadlines – Laura had encountered some submission barricades that were circumvented. If granted, possibly Nina and Laura could work on “make-ready” grants to get the sites ready and have funding providing by Central Hudson.

Mark Ellison stated that he would create a budget report to the EB for future meetings.

Laura Petit noted that there are numerous grants available and she would be working to capture those with the help of Nina Nichols.

Discussion ensued as to what was needed to provide to Laura Petit to download information into the portal for the Climate Smart Matrix. Ellie Gartenstein provided guidance and techniques were suggested. Mark had reached out to possibly obtain the assistance for an intern to help with gathering data to assist toward the Town’s bronze certification.

Environmental Board verifying what is being accomplished and Members were encouraged to attend Town Board meeting. It would be beneficial to Liaison Evelyn Clarke to have EB members to support EB Agenda and requests.

Cynthia McVay inquired if the Library Repair Café events could count toward the Town’s goal to acquire points for the Towns’ Climate Smart certification – hoping it would qualify for points towards NYSERDA certification.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary