

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 4, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Mark Ellison
Don Carragher
Chris DeCicco
Noel Russ
Cynthia McVay
Stephen Cerini

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:

Legislator Laura Petit

The meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.

The Environmental Board Members had reviewed the Town of Marbletown's Natural Heritage Plan as a reference in determining how the Esopus Environmental Board wished to develop. Chairman Ellison noted that to develop a plan such as Marbletown's would require substantial funding which was not currently available. Cynthia McVay noted that it was her understanding that the document had been noted for reference and the Esopus EB wasn't meant to draft its own.

Discussion ensued relative to the Environmental Impact Statement and its use by the Planning Board.

Chairman Ellison noted that there currently was a vacancy on the Planning Board and any interested persons should apply.

Chairman Ellison referenced the letter prepared by Kyle Barnett, Esq. on behalf of the Planning Board and inquired as to how Members wished to proceed with the role of the EB. Don Carragher noted that if documentation and studies pertinent to Esopus could be developed that could be used as a foundation to support Environmental Board recommendations. It was noted that the Town of Esopus currently didn't have an Open Space Plan and the possibility of obtaining grant funding was discussed. Chairman Ellison would research details necessary to engage the services of a consultant to assist in developing a Plan and reach out to members of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council. Stephen Cerini offered to see what maps and studies were available. Cynthia McVay was reaching out to see how much information had been developed by the Waterfront Advisory Board.

Chairman Ellison was looking into local Open Space Plans, what consultants had been used, the cost and feasibility of being able to develop for Esopus. Don Carragher wished to have more direction from the Town Board to help the EB Members determine how they wish to move forward and what it wishes to accomplish. The EB was waiting for feedback from the Town Board relative to the draft proposal. Legislator Petit suggested that the last paragraph of the draft document be removed and submit the document with a letter requesting input from the Town Board. Chairman Ellison would draft letter and take action to ensure that it is submitted to the Town Board. Cynthia McVay suggested also including that the EB was looking into the possibility to create an Open Space Plan for Esopus.

Chairman Ellison was forwarding information to Stephen Cerini for newsletter and Members were requested to forward information.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: December 1, 2020

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved 12/16/20