

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Mark Ellison
Don Carragher
Chris DeCicco
Noel Russ
Cynthia McVay (joined at 8:15 p.m.)
Stephen Cerini
Susan Barbarisi

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:

Legislator Laura Petit
Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean (host)

The meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.

Old Business:

Minutes - Chairman Ellison called for a Motion to approve the October 21, 2020 Minutes (with minor typographical corrections). Upon Motion of Don Carragher, seconded by Noel Russ and the affirmative vote of Members present, the Minutes were approved.

Membership – Currently 2 vacancies existed with Member Barbarisi stepping down at years’ end, creating another vacancy. Ms. Barbarisi was reaching out to a possible candidate to fill a vacancy. Applications to Serve had been distributed if a person with interest in joining contacts any of the Members.

Ulster County Environmental Management Council – Chairman Ellison provided an update and provided October Minutes.

Response letter from the Environmental Board to Kyle Barnett, Esq. (Planning Board Attorney) and Town Board. - The letter had been circulated amongst Members for their input and recommendations. Chairman Ellison read draft letter for additional review during the meeting. “Mandatory referrals” wording had been deleted from the draft Environmental Conservation Board proposal, which was noted in the response letter. Chairman Ellison read communications from EB Liaison Kathy Quick (who was not able to be present due to a scheduling conflict and attendance with the Waterfront Advisory Board occurring simultaneously). Chairman Ellison was forwarding the response letter and cc’ing Planning Board Chairperson Pecora.

The Members thereafter discussed investigation of creating an Open Space Plan and Natural Resource Inventory which would provide ability for the EB to provide more input. Suggestion that Ingrid Haeckel from the NYS DEC may be able to assist. Don Carragher noted that the Town of Rhinebeck (in a news article earlier in the week), had been working with the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Funding sources needed to be sought to obtain funds to finance consultants to develop plans OSP and NRI.

New Business:

Case Study- Discussion tabled.

Other – Stephen Cerini, Mark Ellison and Cynthia McVay had attended webinar Environmental Justice Mapping Tools and links to interactive maps which may help with developing open space and NRI. Chairman Ellison encouraged Members practice with the links and navigating the maps. Noel Russ had provided links for upcoming webinars in December – Solar Mapping on December 9, 2020, Conservation and Land Use 1001 Webinar, Planning in the Hudson River Estuary hosted by the NYS DEC. Chairman Ellison recommended that anyone attending webinars obtain certificates of training if available, to have for their records.

Cynthia McVay had joined the EB meeting (having just left the Waterfront Advisory Board Zoom meeting) and it was conveyed in that meeting, Members had suggested more information be provided, such as recycling practices. Cynthia McVay noted that the website could use a nice overhaul. Chairman Ellison suggested referencing other Town EB pages to see what options were appealing. Chris DeCicco also volunteered to put a design together with aggregate content provided by the Members and work with Outreach Coordinator Dean on the current website to determine if it could be created.

Climate Smart Task Force

Chairman Ellison had spoken to Legislator Petit relative to a grant application for \$8,000.00 and it had been approved by the Town Board that Laura Petit could submit the application as the Climate Smart Coordinator. Mark Ellison suggested that the Task Force move forward.

Don Carragher forwarded email with links to the “Local Champions Pilot Program – Lifeboats Hudson Valley” by email to Members. Don Carragher would look with Laura Petit. Covid had hindered the CSTF being able to research records and data for compilation of actions that would qualify towards points. Chris DeCicco could create a site to organize actions and post updates.

Next meeting scheduled for December 16, 2020.

The meeting ended at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: December 9, 2020

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved 12/16/20