

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Barrows
Mark Ellison
Ann Marie Glenn
Karyn Grieco
Kathy Quick

MEMBERS EXCUSES

Don Cole
Wayne Freer (Town Board Liason)

GUESTS

Kathleen Foley
John Miller

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Karyn introduced and welcomed Ann Marie, the newest member of the Board and both Kathleen and John, who have made application and will be interviewed by the Town Board on Monday, April 2nd, 2012.

Jen made a motion to accept the minutes from both the Nov. 16, 2011 meeting and the Feb. 15, 2012 meeting, seconded by Ann Marie and approved by all.

POSTING OF AGENDA

The State of New York has adopted an addition to the Open Meeting Law. Agendas, Resolutions and other matters to be discussed must now be made available to the public PRIOR TO THE MEETING. Instructions were given to the Board Secretaries.

THE USE OF FRACKING FLUIDS

The Town Board provided both the Environmental Board and the Waterfront Advisory Board with a proposed TOWN OF ESOPUS LAW TO BAN THE USE OF FRACKING FLUIDS and asked that they review and give an opinion.

There was a discussion about same. Ann Marie stated that the County Legislature was, during their regular meeting last evening, March 29th, introducing a similar law prohibiting the use of the Brine as a de-icer on Ulster County Roads. John indicated that a similar ban is being considered in Woodstock is and it is being reviewed by an attorney. The City of Kingston, although it's facilities have the capability of receiving and the "cleaning" so to speak of the residue Brine, has indicated it will not accept it.

The question arose that if should some municipalities agree to use the fluids and some ban it's use, what will happen if they have "Shared Services".

After review and consideration of the proposed law, it is therefore the opinion of this Board to support the Town of Esopus in banning of the use of fracking fluids. HOWEVER, to take this one step further, this Board would also agree with a ban on storing and/or dumping of same within the Town. We ask that the Town Board keep the Environmental Board informed of further concerns, resolutions and proposed laws with respect to Hydrofracking.

SAPLING GIVEAWAY

The sapling give away will take place on Earth Day - Sunday, April 22nd from 2pm to 3:30 pm at the Town Library. Karyn will place an order with Saratoga Tree Nursery for 100 each of Toringo Crab Apple, Silky Dogwood and European Larch. Cost will be \$142 for the saplings and approximately \$25 for shipping. The Library will do a tree planting.

Ann Marie, John and Mark have volunteered to be present at the event.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

Kathie spoke about the CLEAN RIVER SWEEP taking place at Sleightsburg Park on Saturday, April 21st from 9 am to 12:00 noon. (Raindate 4/22 from 10 am - 1 pm) Volunteers are most welcome. For more information please call 331-7358.

Kathie also spoke about the Rondout Adopt a Port Program which is similar to our own Clean River Sweep.

It was mentioned that John Coutant has been approached by Scenic Hudson and that they are looking for volunteers who may be interested in creating a walking trail from the Walkway Over the Hudson up to the Rondout along the water. Concerns were that this trail would pass over private lands so perhaps it could be linked in to the Rail Trails.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

With all the nice weather we have been having it only seemed natural for John to bring up the subject of a Community Garden. The suggestion was well received and we spoke about possible locations - George Freer Park, Charles Landi Park and/or perhaps some little pocket parcels located within the Town.

Jennifer mentioned that Ascension Church will be putting in a Community Garden on their property in West Park.

Ann Marie said she would speak with Gary Swinger from Maple Crest.

This also by be a good Eagle Project for the Boy Scouts.

RIVERKEEPER PROJECT

Mark mentioned that he spoke with Dan Shapley. Riverkeeper is looking for volunteers to help monitor the water quality in the Rondout Creek and Wallkill River. For a few hours on the last Saturday of each month from April to November, volunteers are asked to take water samples at pre-determined locations and transport them to the lab aboard the Riverkeeper's patrol boat docked on the Rondout in Kingston. The goal is to identify areas that are impacted by fecal contamination (either animal or human).

For more information on the program go to <http://www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/locations/>

To volunteer contact Dan Shapley at dshapley@riverkeeper.org or call 914-478-4501 ext 226.

There being no further business Jen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mark and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 18th, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco
Secretary