

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Barrows
Mark Ellison
Annmarie Glenn
Karyn Grieco
Kathie Quick

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Don Cole
Wayne Freer (Town Board Liaison)

GUESTS

Diane Dintruff
Kathleen Foley

The saplings had arrived for the giveaway, we spent about 15 minutes unpacking and putting them in water. The meeting was then called to order at 7:15 pm.

Jen made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 21st meeting, seconded by Annmarie and approved by all.

Jen made a motion to accept the Secretary's pay voucher, seconded by Annmarie and approved by all.

Karyn welcomed this evening's guests, Diane and Kathleen. Both have made application to be part of the Environmental Board and the Town Board is meeting tomorrow evening, April 19th, 2012 for approval of same along with the application of John Miller.

SAPLING GIVEAWAY

The Sapling Giveaway takes place this coming Sunday, April 21st, 2012 between the hours of 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm at the Town Library.

100 each of Japanese Larch, Silky Dogwood and Toringo Crabapple were ordered from NYSDEC - Saratoga Tree Nursery. Total cost \$149.90. Board members Kathie, Mark and Annmarie as well as Diane and John will be there. Kathie will print off info on the saplings to hand out.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Jen spoke about the progress of clearing an area for a Community Garden at Ascension Church in West Park. One acre is nearly ready and can be parceled off for anyone wishing to plant. There will be an additional two acres down below. Volunteers and those with land clearing equipment are needed at this time. Jen will prepare statement of intent and needs for Annmarie to present to the Town Board on April 19th, 2012. It is hoped that the Town Highway Department may be utilized in assisting with the land clearing as this will be a Community Garden within the Town of Esopus.

This will be an Organic Garden.

Annmarie has spoken with the Bruderhof seeking their assistance, either to help with the plowing or in an educational source. The Boy Scouts were also approached and their involvement can help them earn Badges or perhaps it could be an Eagle Scout Project.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

Kathie reminded everyone of the Great River Sweep taking place this Saturday, April 21st, 2012 at the Sleightsburg Park

Training of the Chester Crew will be on April 25th and May 15th. Volunteers are also needed to mark the old sea wall during low tide.

HYDROFRACKING

Hydrofracking and the use of the Brine continue to be an issue of major proportion. There are many area towns that are considering the passing of a Law banning the use of Brine on the roadways. Annmarie reported that the Town of Esopus is no longer considering passing a similar law. NOT PASSING A LAW DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT WILL BE ALLOWED.

The Cary Institute will be hosting a special forum - Hydrofracking in Focus: What Every Citizen needs to know of Saturday, May 5th from 9am to noon. The forum will take place at the Cary Institute Auditorium at 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Rt 44) Millbrook NY. For more info can call 845-677-7600 ext x325 or email tumbletyl@caryinstitute.org

Tuesday, May 15th, 2012 will be Lobby Day in Albany for Hydrofracking.

NEW BUSINESS

John Coutant forwarded to this Board a letter from Scenic Hudson pertaining to a rare plant called Frank's Sedge (Carex frankii) which exists on the Sleightsburg Spit Town Park. Karyn will email Scenic Hudson regarding their management plan for same and determine what involvement they would require of the Environmental Board.

BROCHURES

We still have brochures available. Board members were asked to take some and distribute. They will be available at the Sapling Giveaway.

BUDGET

The Environmental Board has an annual Working Budget of \$400. of which #149.90 was used to purchase the saplings, leaving a balance of \$250.20. There was a discussion as to how best use the rest. Perhaps toward the Community Garden.

OTHER NEWS

Kathie plans on attending the Ulster County Management Council meeting being held at the St John Conference Center at UCCC of Wednesday April 24th, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Jen and Mark are planning to attend the Riverkeeper's informational meeting for collecting water samples along the Rondout and Wallkill. The meeting will take place at the Boces Center on Route 32 in New Paltz.

For more information <http://www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/locations/> Or contact Dan Shapley at dshapley@riverkeeper.org or 914-478-4501 ext 226.

Diane mentioned that the weekend of May 19th and May 20th is Heritage Weekend and was looking for the Board to get involved and have some sort of program or Nature Trail Hike. What a great idea - unfortunately the last day to respond for participation is Thursday, April 19th (tomorrow). However - we will plan on doing something next year.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012.

Respectfully submitted

Karyn E. Grieco
Secretary