

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Barrows Diane Dintruff
Mark Ellison Kathy Foley
Annmarie Glenn Karyn Grieco
John Miller Kathie Quick

TOWN BOARD LIAISON

Wayne Freer (Present)

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Don Cole

Karyn called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Annmarie made a motion to accept the minutes from May 16th, seconded by Jen approved by all.

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

AGENDA

As the Agenda to meetings is now posted, Karyn asked that anyone who has something specific they would like to have discussed, forward that topic on so that it can be included in the agenda.

MEMBERSHIP & CHAIRPERSON

The Environmental Board now has Full Membership and a new Chairperson needs to be appointed. Wayne indicated that the Town Board prefers someone who has been on the Board for a while to be appointed as Chairperson. There are four brand new members (Annmarie, Kathy, Diane & John), one under a year (Mark), one already a Chairperson of another Board (Kathie), one not interested (Jen) and myself (Karyn) who is Recording Secretary and Don. Annmarie said she would take on the responsibility of being Chairperson and as such the meeting as turned over to her.

OLD BUSINESS

Kathie Quick has been in communication with Scenic Hudson regarding the possible location of *Carex ftankii* (Frank's Sedge) at the Sleightsburg Spit Town Park. Several Board members indicated that they are willing to help and Kathie will coordinate a date time.

RIVERKEEPER WATER COLLECTION

The collection and testing of water samples from designated spots on the Wallkill and Rondout have begun. Jen reported that none of the samples taken from the Wallkill was considered acceptable and only a few from the Rondout were acceptable. Jen will provide a report to Annmarie. Volunteers are still needed. Next collection will be June 30th. Mark will provide John with contact info for Dan Shapley so that he may volunteer.

Annmarie will, at the next meeting, provide a report on the turbidity numbers and elevated PPM's as they correlate to the recent releases.

Diane offered to forward to Annmarie information about GPS mapping of findings in our waters.

As this point in time there was a discussion as to what the focus of the Environmental Board should be. Clearly, water is a major part of our environment, but the Town also has a Waterfront Advisory Board. Therefore we need to revisit why the Board was formed - the conservation of the environment - within the Town of Esopus.

HYDROFRACKING

Annmarie attended a public hearing on Hydrofracking at the College. She said there was a very small representation from our Town and would like to see more people involved as we are a large waterfront community. Annmarie will bring to the next meeting information on the hydrofracking taking place in the western corner of New York State.

Wayne indicated that the Boards commissioned in the Town are Advisory Boards that, if they have suggestions or want to make recommendation, etc., should pass them on to the Town Board for consideration to make the final decisions. With respect to a stance on hydrofracking., he indicated that the Town of Esopus would not be considered as a site.

BRINE TRANSPORTATION & USE

The Town has no jurisdiction as to the use of county and state roads for the transportation or use of the brine. Annmarie will try and get information from other towns who have passed resolutions to review to see how they would handle shared services. Wayne indicated the Town has no intent to use the brine.

Diane mentioned that Cornell has a program for Watershed Management Advisors should anyone be interested.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

It's not too late. Cornell Cooperative has offered to assist with training, design, budget and education. Jen gave a soil sample to Cornell who indicated that the soil is suitable for grapes, blueberries and general household gardening. The garden area, located in the upper meadow, consists of approximately 1/4 acre which can be divided in to 40 or so 20' x 20' plots. Jen will contact Community Action and the Methodist Church about the plots to help those in need -

Serving the Underserved.

Annmarie has spoken with Town Supervisor John Coutant and Jen said a parishioner from Ascension Church spoke with Highway Supervisor Mike Cafaldo about the Town helping, with their equipment, to clear the land. Wayne will confirm. Annmarie will speak with Gary Swinger (Maple Ridge Bruderhof) as there has been some indication that they will assist with the tilling of the soil.

ROUNDTABLE MEETING

The Ulster County Environmental Management Council will be hosting a Roundtable meeting on Wednesday, June 27th at 6:30 pm at the Rosendale Rec Center. The topic will be "PREVENTING STORM DAMAGE" Local Environmental Boards are invited.

ESOPUS LIGHTHOUSE PARK

Wayne Stated that Raquel Rabinovich, a visual artist , has completed her water sculptures at the Park. Upon entering the park, look towards the lighthouse and at low tide her sculptures appear in the water. You will soon be able to view the sculptures on the Town website and they will be featured in her new brochure. Thank you Raquel. There will be a grand reception with respect to same. Refer to the Town's Calendar for more info.

THANK YOU

I (Karyn) humbly report that Mark made it a point to say Thank you to myself for assuming the role of Chairperson for these past six months while still doing my job as Secretary. The Thank You was greatly appreciated.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 18th, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Community Room. Unless otherwise announced, all meetings take place on the Third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Community Room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco
Secretary

