

TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 18, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Annamarie Belfiglio  
Mark Ellison  
Karyn Grieco  
Kathie Quick  
Wayne Freer (Town Board Liaison)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Jennifer Barrows  
Don Cole  
Diane Dintruff  
Kathy Foley  
John Miller

**GUESTS**

Gloria VanVliet (Town Board)  
Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept. Of the Environment)

Karyn called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.,.

Mark made a motion to accept the minutes from June20th, seconded by Kathie, approved by all.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**HYDROFRACKING**

The issue of hydrofracking and the use of brine continues a topic of great concern for many and whether or not the Town is considering passing any resolution against same. Karyn read the Public Comment portion of the Town Board's June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. It was reported that many Towns who has passed such resolutions are now in the midst of lawsuits. As there is no immediate danger to The Town of Esopus any decision will be made after studies are concluded and Government reports are issued.

There was a general discussion and Amanda LaValle stated that the Town of Marbletown is considering a moratorium which is currently being reviewed by their attorney who is also comparing it with their Town Code to make sure there are no contradictions.

As the concerns of hydrofracking seem to discussed at great length as each meeting it was suggested that those who are gathering the information and doing the research form a separate group (not a part of the Environmental Board). A representative from this group then can be invited to a meeting to give periodic updates.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Annmarie stated that John Miller walked the area at Ascension Church with the Master Gardener from the Bruderhof and agreed that it would be a good area for growing grapes. Gary Swinger (Bruderhof) advised against putting a community garden there due to the rocky terrain as it would take several years for it to be a productive garden. He suggested looking elsewhere.

There are three main steps in preparing the land - Cutting down the existing growth, turning the earth and tilling the soil. The Town has agreed to have the Highway Department do the cutting and the Bruderhof has offered to till the soil but the turning of the earth is an obstacle at this time. Gloria and Wayne will inform the Town to hold off on the cutting.

## **WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD**

Kathie reported that she and Jen met with four naturalists from Scenic Hudson at the Sleightsburg Spit Park on July 10<sup>th</sup>. They found quite a bit of the Frank's Sedge plant and its locations were marked with GPS coordinates. A management plan along the Central Hudson easement will be implemented. The plant will be allowed to flower and drop seeds before cutting in August.

## **ESOPUS LIGHTHOUSE PARK**

Wayne spoke about the dedication of Raquel Rabinovich's water sculptures. He will research several dates and tide charts to see if this can be done during Creek Week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Amanda LaValle gave us an overview of the Ulster County Department of the Environment. Formed in 2008 they help coordinate environmental policies and issues with the county's government. For more information go [www.co.ulster.ny](http://www.co.ulster.ny). Wayne will look in to having a direct link from our Town's website. Amanda also spoke about Ulster County REConnect [www.ulsteralive.com](http://www.ulsteralive.com), an interactive, online mapping tool used to locate the County's recreational opportunities and Sustainable Ulster [www.SustainableUlster.org](http://www.SustainableUlster.org), a resource to lower energy costs, rebates and incentives available in Ulster County. She also spoke about Creek Week Sept. 15-Sept. 23 and if the Town of Esopus would like to sponsor an event it can be submitted to [www.ucenvironment.org](http://www.ucenvironment.org)

Amanda also spoke a bit about the Turbidity Issues in the County. She is looking to set up a meeting in Kingston to share information and wanted to know if there was sufficient interest in the Town of Esopus to hold a meeting here. Upon consideration and review this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Thank you Amanda for your time.

## **ESOPUS FALL FESTIVAL**

As of this meeting, the date was not known for this year's festival. Once the date has been selected, Karyn will send an email to all Environmental Board Members regarding setting up a booth during the day. It was discussed that concentrating on recycling and getting the word out to those who use the transfer station would be a good idea.

### **THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD IN THE TOWN OF ESOPUS**

Board members have been given the section of the Town's Code pertaining to the Environmental Board. Each member is being asked to review our responsibility and role within the Town and bring new suggestions and new ideas to the next meeting so that we may fulfill our obligations.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Community Room. Unless otherwise announced, all meetings take place the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco  
Secretary