

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2012

MEMBER PRESENT

Annmarie Belfiglio
Diane Dintruff
Mark Ellison
Kathy Foley
Karyn Grieco
Kathie Quick

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jennifer Barrows Don Cole
Wayne Freer (Town Board Liaison)

GUESTS

Gloria VanVliet (Town Board)
Carl Belfiglio (Ulster County Legislature)

Karyn called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed Gloria who was attending the meeting because Wayne was unable to do so and Carl who came to speak about Solid Waste in Ulster County.

Mark made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 18th meeting, seconded by Kathie, accepted by Diane, Mark and Karyn, opposed by Annmarie and Kathy.

Kathie made a motion to accept the Secretary's Pay Voucher, seconded by Mark and approved by all.

Karyn went around the table asking input for topics of discussion for tonight's meeting.

Mark -community garden, recycling, Town of Lloyd kayak portage trail

Karyn - recycling, Fall Festival, budget and tote bags.

Kathie - Franks's Sedge and conservation easement.

Diane - Boards's priorities.

HYDROFRACKING

Annmarie stated that hydrofracking needs to be an ongoing issue to be discussed at the Environmental Board meetings. Carl mentioned that Town Supervisors are able to obtain information regarding hydrofracking from the County and that local laws need to be tied to zoning.

BUDGET

Karyn stated that there is approximately \$250 left in this year's budget and suggested that some sort of tote bag with the Board's name and re-cycling concepts be printed on it. This could be given away with our brochure at either the fall festival in September or during the tug boat auction in October. It was decided to order bags to be given away in October.

FRANK'S SEDGE

Kathie read a letter from Scenic Hudson regarding the recent visit to Sleightsburg Spit Park. They would like to meet with us to discuss the findings and share a template with which to use to continue the monitoring of the plant. Kathie will invite them to the Sept. 19th meeting. Dianne asked why the Environmental Board is involved with this and not the Waterfront Advisory Board as the plant is located along the water. It was explained that the Town has an obligation as a result of a DEC conservation easement to monitor the plant. It just so happens that it was discussed at an Environmental Board meeting and Kathie and Jen volunteered as individuals to meet with four botanists. However, as it is only once a year there should be no reason why this Board should not accept the responsibility and only those members who are able to assist do so.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mark indicated that he had no further information on the soil condition at Ascension Church and that Mike Cafaldo had indicated that he saw no problem brush hogging the area as it had been an area that had previously been mowed. Gloria will speak with Mike regarding same. Annmarie has visited a Community Garden by Binnewater Ice in Kingston and spoke with someone who has been farming for ten years and suggested that raised beds be used and that now would be the time to prepare for next year. She also has spoken with the Boys Scouts who are interested in helping as well as a master gardener and that grants may be available. Ascension Church is looking to form a partnership with both the Methodist Church here in Port Ewen as well as Town Of Lloyd Community Action.

Mark also mentioned that the Town of Lloyd is interested in working with the Town of Esopus in creating a kayak portage trail along the Black Creek. Permission will need to be obtained from private property owners. Mark will provide updates for us.

RECYCLING

Out of 20 local municipalities, the Town of Esopus ranks 14 out of 20 with respect to it's effectiveness in recycling. Gloria indicated that the Town Board would like for the Environmental Board to investigate ways to educate the townsfolk on how to improve their recycling efforts. Although there are some comparisons in the Environmental Board's brochure, more needs to be done. Kathie suggested visiting the top 3 municipalities to see what they are doing and why they are so successful. Karyn asked Gloria for a report from the Transfer Station detailing the breakdown of solid waste - plastic - paper - etc.

SOLID WASTE IN ULSTER COUNTY

Our guest this evening, Ulster County Legislature, Carl Belfiglio spoke regarding solid waste and recycling. Carl provided us with several handouts, one of which stated that in the 1980's the federal and state governments passed laws mandating solid waste planning under a hierarchy of reuse and recycle, and then dispose of what remained. And another stating that in 1986 the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency was created by the NYS Legislature at the request of the of

the Ulster County Legislature to be the lead agency for comprehensive solid waste management in Ulster County. We were given a brief history of the UCRRA including its current assets, operating expenses and outstanding bonds.

Carl also passed out a presentation that he and fellow Legislature Kenneth Wishnick have prepared entitled - Moving Toward Enhancing Environmental and Financial Sustainability of Ulster County's Solid Waste System - that will be presented to the Ulster County Legislature Environment, Energy and Technology Committee.

There was then a general discussion regarding the handling of solid waste and recycling and its impact on the environment, cost comparisons of public versus private haulers and fines imposed for intentional mixing. The Town of Esopus pays \$90 per ton plus fuel surcharges for garbage but incur no expense for the recycling materials. Those townsfolk who use the transfer station need to be encouraged to recycle.

In 2010, Taylor Biomass Energy of Montgomery NY received approval for a \$100 million loan guarantee from the Department of Energy to build one of the nation's first commercial scale biomass gasification power plants fueled by municipal solid waste. Mark mentioned that there is a similar one in Rochester NY.

For more information regarding solid waste in the county you may contact Carl at cbef@co.ulster.ny.us 845-331-4137 or 845-340-3900.

Thank you Carl for taking the time to attend our meeting this evening.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 19th, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco
Secretary

