

TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Diane Dintruff      Mark Ellison  
Kathy Foley        Karyn Grieco  
John Miller         Kathie Quick

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Jen Barrows         Don Cole  
Annmarie Belfiglio

**GUESTS**

John Coutant - Esopus Town Supervisor      Curt Dankelmann - Transfer Station  
Operator  
Brian Clark - Transfer Station Manager        Robert Yerry - Transfer Station Volunteer  
Susan Holland                                        Dare Thompson

Karyn called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced this evening's guests.

Mark made a motion to accept the minutes from Sept. 19, seconded by John approved by all.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Karyn handed out packets containing information on several independent waste carting companies - Printouts on how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - And information on where to order kits to recycle household batteries and fluorescent lamps. Members of the Board were asked to review.

**NEW BUSINESS**

John Coutant thanked the Board for inviting him to the meeting. He spoke about the success of the Fall Festival, Explore Esopus Day and the Tug Boat Auction, of the Chester crew this past summer and how proud he is of all the volunteers involved in these activities and those on both the Environmental Board and Waterfront Advisory Board for all they do.

Curt Dankelmann spoke about the construction at the Transfer Station to improve the ease of recycling. Covered areas are being put in place to protect computers & electronics and newspaper & cardboard from the weather. Access to the roll of bins is being improved.

It was reported that during 2011 there were 650 permits sold (\$10,234) at the Transfer Station. 660,000 pounds of waste was weighed in on the scale. There was also 220,000 of “freebie items” (coupons used). Household garbage is charged by the bag \$4.50 for 30 gallon and \$2.50 for 13 gallon. Construction material is charged at .08 cents per pound. The cost to haul away the solid waste is \$90 per ton plus a fuel surcharge. The budget meeting for the Transfer Station took place earlier today. Should anyone like more details as to income and expense, please ask.

DEC rules and regulations are very strict and the Transfer Station is continually challenged. Should they show up at the Transfer Station, John C. has given instructions that he be contacted immediately.

There was a general discussion with questions being asked of both John and Curt. Both Robert and Brian spoke about day to day operations, challenges and suggestions.

Some of the challenges also faced include, but not limited to:

Brush is taken in at no charge, in can no longer be burned, we do not currently have the means to grind it so it either sits or we pay to haul it away. There is a machine called a Hammermill that grinds brush with green waste (grass clippings) and turns it in to mulch, however it costs \$70,000.

Tires - Although there is a per tire charge, we also pay to have them hauled away. Just recently someone, more likely a business, in order to avoid a disposal fee, dumped over 100 tires down at the Sleightsburgh Park.

Electronics are accepted for free as New York State does not permit for us to charge.

Paper & Cardboard need to be baled. We do not have one so we pay to have it baled.

The Resource Recovery Agency charges us for solid waste but not for recycle items. However, we do have to pay to have the recycle hauled away.

The Transfer Station is currently operating in the negative about \$30,000 - \$40,000. This is an improvement from figures produced in 1997 showing \$200,000 in the negative.

So that being said, what can we do?

John Coutant would like to use Channel 23 as a means to help educate the public.

Robert Yerry asked for volunteers on a Saturday to help direct the public on using the recycling bins.

Hold informational meetings and create Recycle specific flyers.

John Miller spoke about the possibility of co-sharing resources with other municipalities.

Research Grants for equipment (i.e. Grinder & Baler).

Educate and involve school children.

There are Markets that will take our recyclables to be reused. Where are they?

John Coutant has challenged this Board to find ways to increase revenue at the Transfer Station. Do not hesitate to speak out if you have an idea.

Karyn thanked John, Curt, Robert, and Brian for attending this evening.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Our next meeting in November to be determined, as the 3rd Wednesday will be Thanksgiving Eve.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco  
Secretary