

Town of Esopus
Minutes of the Environmental Board
December 9, 2008

Present: Chairman, Andy Bicking, Cathy Quick, Emilie Pereira, David Murray, Dan Shapley

Town Liasion: Debbie Silvestro

No Quorum present. Silvestro had called to discuss the Plattekill Transfer Station and Dankelmann Associates with Cathy DelGado regarding his management of the facility. It is run differently since he is not a paid contractor. He runs it like a private facility. Silvestro said that this seems to be the best situation for the Town of Plattekill because the alternative is the Town would have to take it over. She feels that Dankelmann's contract will be renegotiated for 2009. She also noted that an article in the Daily Freeman referred to the extreme drop in the recyclable commodity.

Chairman Bicking said to keep an eye on the recycling vision and see how it would fit into the Town Transfer Station contract. Murray remarked that he was on Dankelmann's web site, and noted that the Town of Plattekill does compost. Silvestro said that he does occasionally burn in Plattekill which he needs a DEC permit for. Murray said he stopped at the Esopus Transfer Station and the cardboard dumpster had a case of twelve fluorescent tubes laying on top of it. He was bothered by the potential hazard. He felt that the Transfer Station may want to opt to eliminate this material by refusing to accept it. Pereira said there are companies that will pick up the bulbs from companies for a fee. Murray said there are companies that will send post paid containers to fill with fluorescent bulbs that can be sent back when filled. Chairman Bicking said another part of the contract should also be enforcement.

Silvestro asked Bicking if he had gotten in touch with the two people interested in being appointed to the Environment Board. Pereira said she had not spoken to her co-worker yet about the appointment. Silvestro said the next official workshop would be on the 15th, so she would need names of candidates. She also noted that current Board members not interested in remaining on the Board should submit a letter of resignation. Bicking mentioned that Susan Holland would be willing to stay on the Board. Pereira asked if the new potential appointments needed to submit a resume. Silvestro said either a resume or letter of interest.

Chairman Bicking called the meeting to order at 7:23pm.

MINUTES

MOTION to accept the November 2008 Environmental minutes was made by Emilie Pereira and seconded by Dan Shapely. All present in favor.

Chairman Bicking further discussed new members. He said he had reached out a few days ago, but had not heard back yet from anyone.

LIGHTING AUDIT

Murray said he had completed River Road, and most of Route 9W. He said Susan Holland had to complete her assignment, and Michelle Higgins had complete Connolly. Quick asked for the audit documents to be sent to her so she could do her area. Pereira offered to do some of Ulster Park to help out. Murray said he was excited about saving energy and he had located several mercury vapor lights that were very old. He was under the impression that the Town was being charged a flat fee which is not the case. The Town is being charged for usage and upkeep. Chairman Bicking said he would like to get back to the Town with completed documentation of the lights with a recommendation. He asked Murray how many fixtures were in Town. Murray said by district there were four hundred forty five. Rifton had fifty nine which was less than the Town was actually being charged for. Chairman Bicking said he would report that more than half of the lights had been inventoried, and the rest would be completed some time next year.

RECYCLING CONTRACT

Chairman Bicking remarked that the review of the recycling contract should be completed soon. Shapely said he would take a look at it too. Murray asked about last two years where the metal was not generating a revenue. Shapely felt that the contract should outline requirements for documentation of revenues and marketing. Quick did say that there were daily tickets of revenues and user fees. Bicking said he felt it was the Environmental Board's responsibility to raise the questions and not to research. He felt that they could define an area of profitability and to outline some questions that they felt needed to be answered. He didn't feel that the Board should be asking whether the Town wanted to generate revenues or just provide a service. He would also like to see a four season billboard listing materials that could be recycled and how. He said it was important for Dankelmann to submit an enforcement plan.

Shapely agreed that the Board's goals should be addressed rather than getting bogged down in details. Chairman Bicking said a list of goals for the contract should be submitted. Murray said he would like to see a swap shop, fluorescent bulb recycling, and composting. Shapely suggested reaching out to a Boy Scout group to see if they would be willing to take on the Transfer Station as a project to help educated people. Chairman Bicking said recommendation could then be new services, hazardous materials, and transparency in reporting. The annual reports should also be presented to the Environmental Board. Murray felt that an RFP may be in order. Shapely said that the contract could be negotiated with the recommendation that if the services were not provided, then the Town would seek an RFP. Murray said the last RFP was in 1997.

There was discussion on the Swap shop. Chairman Bicking asked if Quick would call the Town of Red Hook about their swap shop, and ask about liabilities, etc. Petit recommended that the Board visit the Hudson Valley Materials Exchange in New Paltz. Shapely volunteered to call Jill Gruber.

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACTIVITIES

Chairman Bicking distributed a letter written to Supervisor Coutant regarding activities conducted by the Environmental Board for the Year 2008.

Murray asked about the status of the Harvester. Quick said that the Town was awarded the grant but there were still funds needed. The Town may have to go out to bond. The last price she heard was \$50,000 short fall to purchase the machine. Murray asked if there were any businesses that may directly benefit from the maintenance of the water chestnuts. Quick said there may be some boating companies. Bicking suggested that Quick contact Scenic Hudson and Clearwater since they had some river front areas that would need to use the Harvester. It would be a direct benefit. Shapely said the Riverview condo owners should be contacted to.

Bicking asked how the Board felt about recommending a waterfront maintenance district tax since it would be a benefit to the river front property owners to have access. Quick was concerned that if the Town sat on the grant money for too long, they may lose it.

Bicking asked if there was anything else the Board would like to add into the summary letter. Shapely felt that the Town should be asked directly what they expected from the Environmental Board. Ask if they have any goals. Bicking said the Board would also like to hear from other Town Boards and committees. Murray suggested that some of the projects that were not taken on may be added to the summary. For instance, the idea of supporting small farms and community agriculture.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

Quick said the big news was the grant approval for the Harvester. She said that Birches had been referred to the WAB regarding the new sixteen space parking lot. Quick said that Miriam Strouse from the EMC had asked for updates to the County municipalities environmental boards contact list. Murray asked if Bicking had checked into public access to the Burroughs property. Bicking said it was not officially open to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Quick said she was concerned that there were no local laws on outdoor wood burners. Her neighbor just purchased one that would be located less than 50 feet from her property. She asked if there were regulations regarding distance and height of the smoke stacks. Bicking said outdoor furnaces have come up but due to previous oil prices were

not being addressed. He felt it was a stale mate. Shapely said there may be State guidelines if there are not any local guidelines. Quick was concerned about health and safety issues.

ADJOURN

MOTION to adjourn was made by Kathie Quick. Seconded by Emily P.