

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

July 16, 2008

PRESENT: Andy Bicking, Emily Pereira, Cathy Quick, Michelle and David Higgins, David Murray, Susan Holland, Louise Ferrante

Absent: Carrine Brown,

TOWN LIAISON: Deborah Silvestro

Public: Dan Shapley

Chairman Bicking encouraged everyone to keep up the momentum over the summer. He asked that the Board look at the agenda for their comments. Higgins suggested that legislation for back yard burning be discussed.

MINTUES

MOTION was made to approve the June minutes. All present in favor.

PAYROLL

MOTION was made to approve the secretary's time. All present in favor.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD - Cathy Quick

Quick reported that the dock project was discussed at the last WAB meeting. She said this is the project that Rondout Heritage was concerned about. The property owner was quiet about the project and kept it small enough that a building permit was not needed. Chairman Bicking said a permit is needed for the proposed bulkhead. Quick said that the WAB did respond to the project with concerns about disturbance to the river and environmental impacts. Silvestro said the property was purchased to put a private boat in the water.

Chairman Bicking asked if the WAB was going to continue with the water chestnut management. Quick said there was a group from the Riverview that was interested in helping. Bicking said that the WAB Chairman was maintaining a list of interested volunteers. Murray said one of his neighbors had volunteered to look at the harvester to see if he could repair it. Silvestro said it was a complicated machine, and the highway department had done work on it.

Quick reported that she had attended the County EMC committee the end of June. She said it was very interesting, and they had addressed recycling enforcement issues. Murray felt that part of the education for the

Town should include use of fluorescent bulbs, and proper handling and disposal. Ferrante said they should also consider including computers. Bicking said this would be good information to get up on the web site.

Quick said she learned that two dams in Esopus had issues. Chairman Bicking said the Eddyville dam was impeding recreation and causing problems for the fish.

RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Higgins informed the Board that she had prepared a list of educational materials for the grant application. She felt that the Town should commit to \$4,000 a year for three years to prepare a budget, and the DEC would reimburse the Town half of the expenses. Chairman Bicking said it would be helpful for preparing for next year's budget, but the Board may want to look at what was currently being spent and how it was benefiting the residents.

Silvestro said the items being discussed (i.e. signage) were in the budget, however, were not itemized. It was in the transfer station operation budget. She felt that the Board should break out the items they were interested in, and have the bookkeeper look for them in the budget. Silvestro informed the Board that the Town Highway department did make signs.

Higgins felt that the DEC was looking for educational material not stone and mortar type projects. Silvestro suggested that they consider items for the budget. Bicking said the recommendations for the budget were due August 1st. He said to consider a priority list of actions and the top three items.

Silvestro felt signage was needed at the Transfer Station and out at Freer Park. The Board felt that since the web site was up those funds wouldn't be needed. There was discussion on mailing educational material out to the public.

Silvestro asked about cloth recycling. Higgins said that the school did clothing drives and collected 10 cents a pound. Silvestro asked about old cloths that were not good enough to donate.

Chairman Bicking thought a poster contest to encourage outreach to the community with the top three posters printed might work. Higgins said that last poster contest for the tree giveaway really didn't work. Chairman Bicking said he was looking for a recommended dollar amount for the budget, and asked Higgins to get back to him by next week.

ENERGY AUDIT

Murray reported that he was still having problems getting in touch with Central Hudson. He said that an audit was done last year that the Board could use. Quick said that the large Central Hudson lights were not needed in the village with all the store lights and new streetscape lights. Murray said he wasn't sure how much money would be saved, but it would save on energy.

Silvestro informed the Board that she had met with a liaison from Assemblyman Cahill's office about funding for the trench at the new Town Hall for a solar conduit, and felt the Town Board was starting to realize that it would be a proactive move. Chairman Bicking said the legislation for net metering looked like it was going

through which may be an incentive. He informed the Board that the State was forwarding municipal recommendations for saving energy and he would try to e-mail the link.

Chairman Bicking asked for Murray's recommendation on having NYSERDA conduct an energy audit on Town buildings. Murray felt it was too soon, and they needed more numbers. Higgins said she had spoken to the Library Director about energy bills for the new library which is a green building. Ferrante felt the Board should work with the revitalization people as a joint effort to improve the Town. Chairman Bicking said they were focused more on the buildings than researching environmental information.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Holland said she had changed the word "landfill" to recycling. She has the hours of operation, a link to Dankelmann website, and the phone number for residents to contact the recycling center.

She said she was continuing updates on the blog, and included information and the minutes. Silvestro asked about the project the David Higgins did, and whether it could be posted. Chairman Bicking asked when the web site would be ready to publicly "launch". Silvestro felt when the KPA was back on the air, it would be a good resource. Pereira suggested promoting it at the Fall Festival table and at the library. Silvestro suggested that a Board member come to the Town meeting which is taped and have the web site address but into the public minutes.

Holland recommended that Bicking include dredging of the Hudson River on the August agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Bicking said he had just gotten a copy of the grant from Clearwater on stormwater management, and training to improve municipal infrastructure. Silvestro explained that MS4 is in districts established by the state which included parts of Esopus. She said there was definitely a need for training and education.

Chairman Bicking said there were some trees left over from the giveaway for the Town Hall. He hoped that some Board members may be able to help, and he could get some direction on where they should be planted. Silvestro suggested he talk to Charlie Wesley, Project Manager.

Chairman Bicking said some Quadra centennial flags were available for the Town, and he had taken one. Silvestro said that the Klyne Museum would be preparing for the celebration and would love to have the flag. The theme next year would be industrializing Esopus.

Chairman Bicking reviewed membership and terms of volunteers. Higgins said she would be interested in continuing on the Board. Bicking recommended that everyone consider their membership and whether they would like to continue on the Board. He also asked about a casual get-together with the WAB committee in August (pot luck), and reminded the Board that generally they did not meet in the month of August. He said he would discuss it with WAB Chairman Marion Zimmer.

Higgins asked if the Board was interested in coming out and endorsing the Burning Ban legislation. Murray asked if it applied only to trash. Higgins said it applied to everything with the exception of "boy scout" type

campfires. Silvestro said it was a public issue and several letters had gone back and forth in the paper. Higgins said this law would enable law enforcement officers to right a ticket for violators.

There was discussion on the pesticides ban in Ulster County.

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Prepared by Laura Petit