

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

July 15, 2009

Present: Emily Pereira, Chairman, David Murray, Susan Holland, Dan Shapley, Cathy Quick

Absent: Olivia Belfiglio, Jennifer Barrows

Town Board Liaison: Debbie Silvestro

Chairman Pereira called the meeting the order at 7:20pm.

PAYROLL

MOTION to approve payroll was made by David Murray and seconded by Cathy Quick. All present in favor.

MINUTES

Holland mentioned that Patrick di Santo should be noted as attending the June meeting. Quick mentioned she had wanted clarification on the water chestnut harvester funding.

MOTION to approve the minutes for June 2009 as amended was made by Cathy Quick and seconded by David Murray. All present in favor.

LIGHTING – David Murray reported that the lighting survey was well received by the Town Board, and the next step would be to speak with Central Hudson. He drafted a poster to put on each pole informing the public of the lighting remediation. Holland and others suggested that the poster be kept simple and include the website address to refer people seeking more information. The Committee agreed.

DISCUSSION – Holland reported on the port-a-potty issue on Union Center Road. The DEC had been called and the Town Building Inspector and County Health Department were contacted. She questioned where the contractor was disposing of the sewage in the

port-o-potties. She was also checking on the issue of overflowing septic systems from the high water table due to excessive rain.

NEXT MEETING

Pereira said that there is usually not an August meeting. Rev. Barrows had contacted the Town of Lloyd and they were interested in an August 17th joint meeting of the Town of Lloyd and Esopus. Quick mentioned that when she was at the EMC meeting, members there felt Esopus should be looking at the Marbletown Natural Resource Inventory. Pereira said there were soil surveys on the USDA website under websoil survey. It included aerial photos. Shapley said that there may be an opportunity for Esopus to be included in the biodiversity review since they did not participate in the Walkkill study several years ago.

There was discussion on events in Esopus that were upcoming including the Fall Festival. The Committee felt they should show a presence at this event, and set up a table.

EMC – Quick reported on the County EMC meeting. She said there was a Farm update and review of the County’s municipal NRI reports. Quick said she shared the Esopus lighting survey with the EMC members. She congratulated Murray on his work.

Water Chestnut Harvester – Murray reported on a 1980 feasibility study published by NYSERDA on using the water chestnuts to create energy. The plants could be harvested and sent to a facility located by the water treatment plant where the electricity generated would be used to power the treatment plant.

Quick said that only six people showed up for the June water chestnut pull. She said Marion and Fred Zimmer, Laura Petit, and two residents of Riverview with canoes helped.

New Business – Discussion on the Town Hall and steps being taken to reduce its carbon footprint. Simple measures like turning off bathroom lights and computer monitors when not in use already had an effect on the electric bill. The Town Board will be moving forward with development of a solar panel field.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Susan Holland and seconded by Cathy Quick. All present in favor.

ADJOURNED 8:20pm