

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

June 18, 2008

PRESENT: Emilie Pereira, Cathy Quick, Michelle and David Higgins, David Murray, Dan Shapley, Susan Holland , Louise Ferrante

Absent: Andy Bicking, Carrine Brown

TOWN LIAISON: Deborah Silvestro

Acting Chairman Pereira called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. (Andy Bicking was unable to attend) She informed the Board the Robert Yerry had submitted a formal resignation letter. Dan Shapley is interested in filling the vacated position but has not been formally appointed by the Town Board. Silvestro indicated that the Town may want to interview him first.

Pereira said a letter was received from the UC EMC that Esopus needs to appoint a liaison from the Town. Quick offered to take the position but would like to get more information on time and meeting date. Higgins offered to be the alternate.

MINTUES

MOTION was made to approve the May minutes with the amendment to add Carrine Brown as present. All present in favor.

PAYROLL

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

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD - Cathy Quick

Quick reminded the Board that anyone volunteering to help pull water chestnut should wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, and sturdy sneakers. She said tarps were needed to drag the water chestnuts out of the water to a storage area on shore so they could be dewatered.

Quick said that Town Councilman Carl Belfiglio would be present. Several EAB members indicated they would also be attended and members from the Bruderhof. Silvestro suggested that the Board ask him to bring his camera. She said she had called WGHQ morning radio to promote the event and had posted it on the KPA calendar. Quick said that her husband offered to provide some subs for the volunteers.

RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Higgins informed the Board that she and Laura Petit had reviewed the DEC grant which would reimburse the Town up to 50% of its expenditures. She had prepared the pre-application and e-mailed it with the details prior to tonight's meeting. The grant budget included signage, upgrades to the recycling center, books for the library, etc. The total request would be \$25,000 to be spent over a three year period. She said she would resend the pre-application for the Board to review, and discuss at next month's meeting. Higgins mentioned that the grant had to be approved by the Town Board before it could be sent out to the DEC in Albany.

ENERGY AUDIT

Murray reported that he has been playing phone tag with Central Hudson, but was able to go onto their website and get their retail cost list for type of light and wattage. He informed the Board that a 400 watt bulb costs \$24/month. He said he had asked if the Town had ever done a comprehensive review of the Town lighting, and was told they had not

Silvestro mentioned that a former member of the board used to ask why so much is being spent on lighting, but it never went anywhere. She said the lighting costs were broken down by district and she provided monthly lighting costs for each of the four existing districts totaling \$4,900.00. The Board discussed getting a Town map and dividing the districts so they could conduct a survey of the number of lights in each area. Shapley thought there may already be an advocacy group concerned about the "light pollution" who could be contacted to help.

Silvestro informed the Board that the opportunity for the Town to make their decision on solar power is short. She felt the Town is concerned about the \$11,000 added expense. There has been discussion on the Highway Department digging the trench and laying the conduit to save cost. The Board expressed their support of putting in the conduit now for future solar projects. Silvestro suggested that some of the Board members attend the Town meeting.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Holland said she has been busy the past month and not much progress was made on the website. She said she did receive last month's minutes and would be posting them on the web. Murray suggested that the Board reach out to the Town architect so the "green" aspects of the building could be posted on the web site. Silvestro felt the Town was not planning on constructing a green building. She suggested that they reach out to Charlie Wesley, Clerk of the Works, to arrange for a group tour of the building.

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm