

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS

## ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

June 17, 2009

**Present:** Emily Pereira, Chairman, David Murray, Susan Holland, Dan Shapley, Kathy Quick, Patrick di Santo, Laura Petit

**Absent:** Olivia Belfiglio, Jennifer Barrows

**Town Board Liaison:** Debbie Silvestro

Chairman Pereira called the meeting the order at 7:23pm.

**LIGHTING** – David Murray reviewed the final assessment of the lighting survey. There is a \$24,000 potential savings which was outlined in a three-page finding letter to the Town Board. Quick remarked that the savings were in “today’s cost savings” and would equate to much more in future years. Murray said he included recommendations for replacement and removal of duplicate or non-essential lighting fixtures. The Board would make their final comments for Murray to present to the Town Board by next week.

There was also discussion on the Town Hall solar project since the bills were running \$5,000 month currently. Silvestro also commented on Steve Aaron’s request for the Birchez project and that he was requesting a significant increase lighting that would be paid for by the Town. She felt that there was enough lighting in place already.

**DISCUSSION** – Holland and di Santo brought up the port-a-potty issue on Union Center Road. The DEC had been called to take samples and felt that because the water level was so high, it was a septic problem. Shapley was also concerned about run-off into the creek from the new driveways being put in. Holland and di Santo questioned contamination of surrounding private properties if there were no existing Town codes to enforce the run-off issues.

**RECYCLING** – Pereira mentioned that Laura Petit had offered to give the Board a tour of the New Paltz recycling facility. Shapley asked about New Paltz’s handling of brush and wood debris. Petit said the Town owned a tub grinder, and permit holders were charged a small fee of \$5 yard to offset repairs on the grinder. Mulch was free to permit

holders. She also mentioned that Esopus could get reported recycling and use information from the NYSDEC since Transfer Stations are required to report annual. Shapley said he would FOIL that information so he could do an analysis of costs.

Shapley reviewed the NRI (Natural Resource Inventory) topic. He said he could not find an active group in towns adjacent to Esopus but would continue to reach out. Amanda LaValle from the Ulster County Department of the Environment had recommended several towns she thought were conducting an inventory. The Board discussed methods of conducting an inventory, and how information could be assimilated.

**Minutes – MOTION** to approve the minutes as made. All present in favor.

**EMC** – Quick reported on the County EMC monthly meeting, and upcoming discussions. She also mentioned that the Waterfront Advisory Board would be scheduling a water chestnut pull in June.

**Water Chestnut Harvester** – The Town Board had approved the purchase of a water chestnut harvester. The funds to purchase came from the grant from the state (\$60,000, obtained by Marion Zimmer), the trade-in for the old harvester (\$25,000), a generous donation from Maple Ridge Community (\$25,000), and the low-interest bond from the town (\$30,000). (All dollar amounts are approximate.)

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Shapley and seconded by Kathy Quick. All present in favor.

ADJOURNED 8:45pm