

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD  
March 19, 2008**

**Present:** Andy Bicking, Chairman; Susan Holland; Catherine Quick; Michelle Higgins, David Murray

**Absent:** Louise Ferrante; Carrine Brown David Murray; Emily Pereira;

**Town Board Liaison:** Debbie Silvestro

Chairman Bicking called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Bicking welcomed the group and four visitors. He said he looked forward to their input and hoped other members of the community would attend at future meetings. He reviewed the major goals established for 2008: Education, Recycling and Energy Efficiency.

Chairman Bicking reviewed last month's report by Transfer Station contractor, Curt Dankelmann. He reminded the Board that Mr. Dankelmann was invited in to discuss the dynamics of recycling in the hopes the Board could develop to improve rates of recycling among Town residents.

Chairman Bicking said that webmaster Mike Rice was unable to attend the meeting..

Chairman Bicking reminded the Board that he needed to present their Annual Report to the Town. The report will include an overview of last year's activities. Higgins felt that if any issues that came up in the Town that were of environmental impact, they should as a matter of practice be referred to the Environmental Board. Chairman Bicking agreed that with the various fields of environmental expertise of the Board members, it would be an advantage to the Town to refer issues to the Environmental Board and will include this in his report. Susan Holland also suggested that the Environmental Board should be viewed as more than an Advisory Board and would like to put forth policies.

Silvestro said she was informed that the Klyne Esopus Board was developing a means of contacting new residents with the Town Assessor, and thought it would be a good idea to include recycling pamphlets in the greeting package.

Chairman Bicking also reported that Robert Yerry had resigned from the Environmental Board due to health reasons. He did said that Yerry would like to stay on as a volunteer, and help implement recycling at the Transfer Station.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION** to accept February 2008 minutes made by Cathy Quick and seconded by Michelle Higgins  
All present in favor.

## **Waterfront Advisory Board – Cathy Quick**

Quick reviewed the Dunkin Donuts project, and informed the Board that the project did not address stormwater issues. Other agenda items discussed was the Hudson River Clean Sweep scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> which would include parts of the Rondout Creek. Chairman Bicking discussed the purchase order submitted by Board member Pereira for 225 saplings at a cost of \$117. Higgins was concerned that there wouldn't be adequate access at the park for an estimated 80 people. Silvestro thought it could be promoted as the give-away being at the Town Hall along with the advertising for the Clean Sweep.. Chairman Bicking will ask Pereira to take care of the press release. Quick reminded the Board that she had done the flyer last year, and presented a sample of this years flyer to the Board. Higgins said she would advertise it in the school. Chairman Bicking also invited Scout Troop 26 to the event. The Board agreed that the sapling give-away should be at the Town Hall on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00pm.

Quick also discussed the problems with the Water Chestnut Harvester, and that the WAB may be having a hand pulling program for the Water chestnuts since the Harvester was not working.

## **RECYCLING REPORT**

Holland reported that she had done research on recycling and had noted that Dankelmann's web site had Esopus recycling information. She attended the recycling session in Kingston by their environmental educators, and was interested in the Pay-As-You-Throw program. She said the last presentation would be April 6<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. She was thinking about what incentives may get people to recycle more. Chairman Bicking would like to identify some short term steps to increase recycling and Higgins suggested improving signage identifying the site. Holland felt most people don't even know where the Esopus Transfer Station is. Higgins said the sign in New Paltz was attractive, and drew attention to the location of the facility. Chairman Bicking reminded the Board that permission to post signage on Route 9W may take some time. Silvestro said if it was posted off the right-of-way it wouldn't be a problem. Chairman Bicking asked if the Town would have to approve the signs. Silvestro said it was just a matter of presenting the design to the Town Board. Holland will look into what it will take to get signage posted.

Holland said that recycling information should be distributed at the upcoming events. Silvestro said the information was being distributed at the transfer station and Town Hall. She added that the Swap Shop may be a problem because there could be a lot of leftover material that needed to be disposed of. She thought that posting it on a web exchange may work better. Chairman Bicking will call Dankelmann and discuss the feasibility of implementing the board's ideas, including composting, a swap shop or bulletin board, and improving the driveway, enhancing signage and making other low-cost visual improvements.

## **WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Chairman Bicking said he had spoken with Mike Rice, webmaster. Rice had recommended that the Board get back to him with some changes. Chairman Bicking suggested a link to Dankelmann's webpage, and other resource of public information. He also suggested Town resources be listed.

Silvestro felt that the Board should create the page design before referring to Mike Rice. She said there were brochures posted on the web page that could include recycling information. Chairman Bicking asked Holland if she would prepare a design for the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Lighting issue in the Town were discussed. Higgins said that \$2,000 a month for inefficient lighting was not acceptable. Silvestro said it was over \$2,000, and said Petit had e-mailed her some information on NYSERDA's energy audit. She planned on contacting Pat Courtney to see if an audit could be done for the Town, and find out more about lighting options. Higgins said that NYSERDA was a great source of information, and would offer more efficient options.

**MOTION** to approve vouchers for secretarial expenses and for the saplings was made by Michelle Higgins, and seconded by Cathy Quick. All present in favor.

Higgins asked to be excused from the meeting.

Joan Cypher, a member of the public, discussed flooding issues on Union Center Road, and that the sale and development of property was causing severe problems for her neighbors. She had contacted Supervisor Coutant who visited the site with Planning Board Chairman Pecora. Two more modulars would be placed on property that was clear cut. Owners of one home walked away because they couldn't deal with the flooding. The Building Inspector put a condemned sign on it. He said the Planning Board Chairperson said the development was approved because the property owners claimed a hardship. The Planning Board Chairperson also said that the Environmental Board was not involved in any Planning Board approvals. The resident said they were looking for an attorney pro bono. The clear cutting of property and stream diversion was also impacting County owned property. Silvestro said the next Planning Board meeting was scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Chairman Bicking suggested that Cypher also contact DEC.

## **ADJOURNED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.