

**Town of Esopus
Minutes of the Environmental Board
March 18, 2009**

Present: Chairman, Emily Pereira, Jennifer Barrows, Kate Landi, David Murray, Susan Holland, Dan Shapley, Kathy Quick, and

Absent – Andrew Bicking

Guests: Amanda LaValle, Department of the Environment; Carl Belfiglio, Town Council

Town Liaison: Debbie Silvestro (excused)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Esopus Town Hall

MINUTES – Kathy Quick noted that the minutes should read Great Hudson River Sweep.

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

RECYCLING - Pereira

Chairman Pereira reported that the contract for the operation of the Town Transfer Station had been pushed back by the Town attorney for further review. His comments were similar to the Environmental Board's concern.

LIGHTING SURVEY - Murray

Murray reported that he had a draft report prepared on the lighting survey. He remarked that there were two recommendations: 1) to replace approximately ¼ of the lights and 2) recommendations to decommission approximately 70 fixtures which represented a considerable amount in Central Hudson fees. There was further discussion on the condition of the current lighting and justifications for recommendations. LaValle recommended that the Board reach out to the Solar Consortium for more input, and for information on solar for the new Town Hall.

YOUTH MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Chairman Pereira updated the Board on the new members. She also remarked that Olivia Belfiglio was interested in being appointed as the youth member. Belfiglio discussed the appointment of Olivia Belfiglio. She was unable to attend due to a prior commitment but was very interested in the Board position.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

Pereira reported that Bicking had reached out to the Wallkill River Land Trust and felt a joint meeting with both Boards would be ideal. LaValle said that the County had compiled information through Information Services which may be useful for the Natural Resource Inventory report they were discussing. She felt a cooperative effort would be beneficial to develop and maintain the NRI, and apply to Hudsonia for assistance. LaValler distributed CD's from the Hudson River Estuary on "Conserving Natural Resources" – biodiversity preservation. There was further Board discussion on moving forward with the NRI and future goals. There was also discussion on scheduling a speaker to do a public presentation.- Lou Sebesta

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD - Quick

Quick reviewed the water chestnut harvester, and the Great River Sweep event scheduled for April 25th at 9am status. She discussed Smith's permit application to build a dock on the Rondout Creek. There was Board discussion on public access to Sleightsburg Park, and the Town's liability.

ANNUAL SAPLING GIVEAWAY

To be held on April 18th at Town Hall. Pereira said the event would bring people out to see the new Town Hall. There was discussion on the Environmental Board having a presence at the Fall Festival this year.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by Laura Petit