

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS

## ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

May 20, 2009

**Present:** Emily Pereira, Chairman, Olivia Belfiglio Susan Holland, Jennifer Barrows, Dan Shapley, Drew Smith.

Absent: David Murray

**Town Board Liaison:** Debbie Silvestro

Chairman Pereira called the meeting the order at 7:00pm.

**Minutes – MOTION** to approve the minutes as amended to reflect a correction in a name spelling was made by Susan Holland and seconded by Dan Shapley. All present in favor.

**Discussion -** Holland had some concerns that had come up since the last meeting. Mr. Smith remarked that there was a new house under construction on Union Center Road where a few “Port-a-Pottys” were being stored. He said now there are over thirty which are in close proximity to a stream. He noted that one day it appeared that there was runoff or spillage in the water to the point where the Bruderhof and an adjacent property owner went to investigate. Shapley asked if the potties were being transported. Mr. Smith said it appeared that they were just being stored there as the house was being built which he didn’t have an issue with. The concern is whether the port-a-potties are a business, and whether there is spillage. Quick remarked that there are wells in the area too.

The DEC was called and had come to take samples of the surrounding water. Quick asked if the building inspector had been called. If this is a business, it needs to be noted in the Town books. Holland said this property has a history of dumping. The previous property owner was ordered to clean up the junk cars being stored there. She said that the property was beautiful and pristine.

There was further Board discussion on how to handle the situation.

Chairman Pereira said that Chris Bowser was submitting a letter of intent to fill the position vacated by Andrew Bicking. Bicking offered to continue volunteering for the Environmental Board if they needed any assistance.

There was discussion on resource mapping and the Biodiversity seminar held at UCCC. Amanda LaValle, Department of the Environment, had mentioned at last month's meeting that the Towns of Lloyd and New Paltz may be interested in working together.

**Recycling** - The Board discussed Dankelmann and his contract with Plattekill. Shapley questioned whether the Town Transfer Station was breaking even, and whether the Town was going to review operations. He offered to write a letter to FOIL Transfer Station documents.

**EMC** – Quick reported on the County EMC meeting, and that the Water Shed would be discussed at the next meeting. She also reported that approximately thirty people showed up for the Sleightsburg Park cleanup.

**Water Chestnut Harvester** – Silvestro reported that two bids had come in on the water chestnut harvester. The Bruderhof will be contributing some funds, and the Town will have to bond for the remainder.

**Annual “Breathe Green Esopus” Plant Give-Away**- Emily Pereira reported that the tree give away was a success. The Board discussed ways to increase public awareness of the event for next year. Holland had collected e-mails to add to the contact list.

**New Business** – Discussion on the Town Hall and development of a solar panel field.

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

ADJOURNED 8:17pm