

TOWN OF ESOPUS
WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathie Quick	Carol Tomasetti	Mike Minor
Bill Benson	Eli Schloss	Rosemarie Kristofy
Joe Guido	Marion Zimmer	Kathy Weitze
Gloria VanVliet (Liaison)		

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

For clarification was May's minutes, Carol stated that Chester did not receive a new anchor, the highway department modified the boat to allow the anchor to be accessible while on the water, significantly increasing the safety situation should there be a problem. There are plans to work on Esopus Meadows, however, will need to continue to work on a long term mooring strategy.

Bill made a motion to accept the minutes from May 28th, seconded by Mike and approved by all. Marion made a motion to accept the Secretary's Pay Voucher, seconded by Kathy and approved by all.

ZONING

Joe stated that Dick Wenzel has joined the Board. The Board is reviewing Stone Wall Farms and a new Tourist Home.

PLANNING

Mike spoke about the Van Velson Tourist Home, across from Headless Horseman. It is an existing home with four bedrooms (interior renovations not needed). The original plan was for a B&B, however, it is not owner occupied as required. DOT has already approved the parking lot paving. As there is nothing that needs to be considered by this Board, Kathie will prepare a letter of No Comment.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Karyn reported that the May meeting was cancelled as members of the EB were planning on attending the Planning Board meeting - Esopus Farms was on their agenda. (Both meetings were to start at the same time). July's meeting has been changed to the 3rd Wednesday, July 17th.

GEESE

Gloria indicated that there was some discussion at the Town Board meeting about the geese. The planting of shrubbery or placement of flashing lights may prevent nesting. No definite decision was reached. Suggestions - Vegetation may help with erosion. Perhaps fake swans ?

HUDSON INITIATIVE

Diane Dintruff attended this evenings meeting. She spoke with someone last week about the Grant that was applied for and was told that no decision has yet been made. Marion mentioned that a new Grant will become available in August that can be applied for. On September 14th there will a lighthouse to lighthouse kayak run.

Diane is also creating several posters highlighting water sites and activities. She thought perhaps they could be used along the Hudson to help promote tourism.

CHESTER

Carol says that things are in full mode. Last year cutting began on June 1st and by the 25th there were 44 machine hours with 18 cutting. This year cutting began on June 6th and by the 25th there were 33 machine hours and 12 cuttings resulting in 37 ½ loads. Freer Beach is in reasonably good shape as this is the 3rd year of cutting. The north section of the beach will be a focus this year as it had not been done last year. They are now attacking the first cut from last year and it is not as heavy. At Lighthouse Park the eastern section (kayak area) was cut in the past so they are now working on the western section.

The folks from Maple Ridge along with volunteers spent a lot of man hours creating inter-crossing kayak paths and opening up the area by the wall. Next are paths to the north to keep an eye on the beach and widen the area to the south.

There are over 30 volunteers this year. Thank you so much to Carol, Maple Ridge and all the volunteers for all your hard work.

Mike mentioned that as you drive by you see more traffic on the river which is an obvious result of the clearing of the chestnuts.

It was mentioned, that perhaps in the future, we can do contract cutting for other communities.

There is no issue with the chestnuts at the boat launch in Sleightsburg.

FLOODING

Diane recently attended a Kingston Flooding Task Force meeting. She reported that the members looked at high risk areas comparing how they are now to 30 and 70 years ago. One concern was, if current trends of climate change and global warning continue, it is thought that

Sleightsburg could eventually be under water. Shorelines need to be examined and plans need to be implemented to protect these areas. Diane said they also discussed focusing on the Rondout, look at various areas and prioritize neighborhoods based on health & safety. What are the alternatives? Study the pros and cons. Then make an educated decision. Diane shared maps and reports with this Board. If you would like further information, you can contact Diane at ddintruff@yahoo.com or visit www.kingstoncac.org

Diane also mentioned taking a look at the Mid Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan website at www.orangecountygov.com/124/1362/10101.aspx

With respect to climate change and flooding Mike made mention that the salt line in the Hudson River migrates north during a very wet year and can go from the Tapan Zee Bridge all the way to Beacon. If it continues to move north, there may be concerns about health issues as our water treatment plant may be effected.

There being no further business, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carol and approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting, if necessary will be on July 23rd, 2013 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco
Secretary