

Town of Esopus

Waterfront Advisory Board

Agenda

October 7, 2015

Members Present: Janet Bellusci., Rosemary Kristofy, Joe Guido, Marian Zimmer, Eli Schloss, Amy Cahill, Carol Tomasetti. Brent Gherke,

Liasion: Diane McCord

Guests: Diane Dintner

Secretary: Sheila Pratt

- 1. Call meeting to order - Call to Order at 7:00 pm.*
- 2. Review minutes of 8/05/15 meeting - Minutes reviewed, Janet motioned approval of minutes, Amy Cahill second the motion.*
- 3. Dredge pit on Town Beach Property - Marian presented pictures she had taken that day (10/7) showing the fence around it that runs east - west along the river at least 30' by 50' wide. All members expressed their concerns and outrage regarding the actions of Hidden Harbor in Freer Park. A letter was presented and read regarding the agreement of the disposal from Supervisor Coutant with the statement that the area disturbed would be returned to its original condition. Suggestions have now been made to turn that plot into a "garden area" as DEC has deemed the material safe through testing, class #2 soil, not environmental impact. A letter sent to all members from Supervisor Barnett noted that additional insurance had been secured for that area of the park as well; in light of the actions that were taken without prior notification or written permission from the Town Board. Cathy also expressed her frustration at not being kept in the notification loop as we are the advisory board to the town. A plan to have "Citizen Monitors" to follow projects & note actions taken, were mentioned and all were in agreement to approach this idea. (L.U.L.A.) A discussion began among the group expressing their frustration including the following questions:*

What actions can we take now? Why wasn't our Chair notified? Was the Zoning Board informed of this along with the Town Board? What steps can now be taken, what type of guidelines are in place for the park to prevent this from happening again? Carol, Eli

thought somewhere in the Town Code there should be regulations preventing this, can we look this up? Carol recommended that the Park regulations & LWRP should be developed along the same guidelines in the future when that comes up for renewal or re-vamping. Cathy will be writing a letter to the Town Board expressing our frustrations and requesting that any future actions affecting Waterfront properties be brought to our attention as we are an advisory board to the residents of the town.

4. Planning Board: Per Diane there were no issues to present to us at this time

5. Zoning Board: Per Joe Guido there is nothing that affects WAB from Zoning at this time.

6. Environmental Board: Garden update? Per Sheila the Environmental Board had a table at the "Fall Fest" and distributed over 100 packets of "Benefits of the Town Transfer Station" describing fees, directions to, recyclables taken and the return money benefits to the Town. For the garden we will be starting earlier this year (February) working from the "Hudson Valley Seed Catalog" for fruits and vegetables meant for this growing zone and networking with Robert Graves & The Birches Senior Residence to develop a schedule for watering and tending to the garden.

7. Chester - Carol just had a presentation with the Kingston Kiwanis regarding Water Chestnut harvesting with a good response and a volunteer for next year. Had a good season & boat is now out of the water. They had 3 mechanical issues this season: Battery needed, master link and hydraulic cylinder need replacement and Carol asked a rep from Cutler to come in the spring to inspect the machine before the 2016 cutting season. Diane McCord asked how old is this model, and please present costs for next year's budget on a newer model and maintenance schedule Carol felt it needed.

We will have mandatory safety training for all staff in 2016 as well. Diane D. requested an area be cleared for a water trail; there is a new book out for kayakers on NYS Water Trails. Carol discussed the length of time in various areas that have decreased due to consistent cutting and removal of the cuttings is primary and establishing the overspray areas where the seeds settle to be cut in the following season. Carol stated they are attempting to clear an area near Esopus Meadows approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in length for kayak access but for it to stay clear needs annual clearing and time for that needs to be established in the cutting schedule.

128 hours this year - 58 NORTH - 70 SOUTH

LOADS REMOVED: 153 LOADS = 53 NORTH - 100 SOUTH

We have 30 volunteers on deck for next year to cut. Our last day of cutting was 8/26/15 and we need to find a shed for storage, possibly build an 8X8 un-intrusive structure as the shed near Lighthouse Park. Joe suggested we ask the Woodcrest Bruderhoff for building assistance & per Carol "a great idea" as they already have assisted with cutting and were a great help this year.

8. Water Quality Issues: Janet presented information that a water test was performed on 9/13 on Riverkeeper's website in Eddyville and failed badly, (PER 100 Milliliters of water) for Enterococcus, (which is a bacteria related to wastewater contamination) anything less than 60 considered good, 60+ is not good, after rainfall (below dam) tested more than 2420; this is the result of citizen testing. Per Bret; how do we know this came from Eddyville and not farther upstream? At the Kingston Public Dock is tested at 727, which is a vast difference. The public should know how unsafe the water is when their children are swimming in it. My question is what has been done in the past to notify swimmer's in that area, what can we do to notify them and where can we post this? Per Janet hopefully an office is to be established as an incubator testing area for water quality. Carol suggests that possibly Riverkeeper could establish a link with "Safe Public Water Spots" to notify boaters and tourists coming to this area that the water is safe for swimming. Eli states that sometimes the Health Dept. will list this, possibly life guards could test? Citizens are usually the sample takers/testers so the forwarding of information is time sensitive. Per Cathy we can work with various departments to connect and link local towns and Riverkeeper's website with this information.

9. Replace letters on bulkhead in Sleightsburgh Park, fix entrance sign - working to replace sign in the spring.

10. Other business? Sheila presented a DEC website printout regarding the Millen's Recycling site as a superfund cleanup and an open comment session for a month of local public feedback. Carol questioned who is actually the owner? Demolition permit was granted but seeing the Hazardous waste containers in the past week for soil removal has raised questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm, next meeting: Wednesday November 4, 2015 (if necessary)

Respectfully submitted by: Sheila Pratt October 17th, 2015