

Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board

December 6, 2017

Members Present: J.Bellusci, A.Cahill, J.Guido, M.Phelan, K.Quick, M.Ross, E.Schloss, C.Tomasetti, M.Zimmer.

Guests: Dave Cathell, Dale Wolfield.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. Houskeeping chores include updates to & distribution of WAB Contact Sheet, Term Appointments, & 2018 Meeting dates. Dave Cathell is an interested community member, & Dale Wolfield has applied to replace Brett Gehrke on the WAB.

Minutes: Reviewed 11.01.17 minutes. **Motion to accept:** C.Tomasetti, 2nd M.Zimmer. Approved.

Planning Board: Reviewed Kennedy, Case #2017-14, Special Use Permit/Site Plan, 639 Third Ave., Sleightsburgh, SBL:56.044-2-24.1. Our concerns involve “pre-existing condition” parking area to side of house. We feel that if this is to be paved, there should be some kind of buffer between the two properties which is pervious. In addition, members have observed how drastically this property has been cleared. We suggest that the Planning Board consider asking for a landscape plan to minimize erosion as well as to make this property more reflective of surrounding properties.

Zoning Board: J.Guido brought plan from a landlocked riverfront property near Hearts Ease. There is no legal right of way to the property, as driveway would cross 3 other properties. This was brought as we will likely see it in the future re: waterfront & steep terrain.

Environmental Board: Members have been actively working on the Town to get State approval for Climate Smart community status. This would give us grant opportunities for things like auto charging stations. etc.

Anchorage/HRWA: M.Phelan was a panel member for 11/15-16 in Albany for Coast Guard PAWSA workshop. They presented a Waterway Risk Model, which became quite technical. The tug & petroleum industries were strongly represented. Riverkeeper’s Capt. John Lipscomb summed up the community’s take on the proposal, & was able to counter some arguments. It was felt that an anchorage in Kingston is the prize site desired. Pilots say they consider the lack of a berth in Albany an emergency. It was said that “drinking water issues will be taken into consideration”. Scenic Hudson wants more Coast Guard presence on the Hudson, a Harbor Safety Committee. Final report expected in Winter 2018. Our WAB group pointed out that there are anchorage sites which currently go unused, feels the selection of members for workshops was less than transparent, & that we need to keep the noise up.

Other business: Culverts: J.Bellusci summarized assessment recently done (many rated poorly), which gives the Town a place to begin prioritizing, & provides opportunities for more grants.

Next meeting: If necessary, January 3, 2018

Motion to Adjourn: 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bellusci, 12.14.2017

