



Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
January 19, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present: Also Present: Liaison Evelyn Clarke
Chairman Mark Ellison
Noel Russ (7:09 p.m.)
Chris DeCicco
Cynthia McVay (7:34 p.m.)
Ellie Gartenstein

Excused: Climate Smart Chairperson Laura Petit

Meeting commenced at 7:06 p.m. Chairman Mark Ellison welcomed Evelyn Clarke as the Town Board liaison.

Two potential member candidates were welcomed – Nina Nichols and Lee Gough.

November notes (compliments of Laura Petit) were consented to.

Membership – Chairman Ellison introduced member candidates, Lee Gough and Nina Nichols who provided background history and interests.

UCEMC – No meeting – gathering via Zoom. Next meeting will be Wednesday of January 2022.

New York Stretch Code – Adopted by Town Board and awaiting filing with the State for finalization. Ellie Gartenstein noted that thought should be given to the 5K that should be dispersed from the State.

2022 Budget – The Town Board had approved the proposed budget. Chairman reviewed line items approved.

Other – 4H request for tree planting locations forwarded by Town Supervisor. Nina suggested park in Connelly was seriously lacking. Councilperson would reach out to Supervisor to see if suggestions could be coordinated with Dan Vedder. Chairman suggested that Secretary contact Supervisor with input from Dan to plant trees at park in Connelly.

New Business:

Resiliency Planning – Prior Town Supervisor Jared Geuss had provided letter of support. Program would create timeline and budget for climate smart resiliency. Actions and implementation information would be provided.

Goals for 2022 – Mark asked that members make a list (expand on them) and look to prioritize at the next meeting to get them into action. Ellie noted the EV charging station and location needed to be settled upon. Laura Petit had provided written comment that a municipal location should be considered. Mark asked Ellie to look into location restrictions.

Membership – Ongoing goal and encouragement was given to continue recruitment for the Climate Smart Resiliency Assessment

Project being conducted with the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Alternative funding for creating an inventory (find name in past notes). Mark suggested that community education opportunities and ideas should be entertained for the Environmental Board's involved in the upcoming year. Riverkeeper Clean Sweep takes place in May. Chairman Ellison inquired if members wished to continue in participation at the transfer station this year. Saplings would need to be ordered if participation would take place. Discussion ensued regarding one event or spreading possible events between Earth Day and other events throughout the year. Noel Russ offered to develop pamphlets. Members would further investigate to see what options were available for Earth Day and moving forward in the year. Chairman Ellison suggested reinventing trifold to insert into the kiosks throughout the Town as part of the outreach program. Councilperson Clarke suggested using plant-based stock. Chairman Ellison noted the use of the QR Code as well on publications.

Carex Franki – EB still responsible for monitoring. Chairman Ellison would be providing article he had located.

Noel Russ commented on social media process. Suggested that Instagram page for the EB could be useful for educational outreach. Chairman Ellison suggested that informational Zoom meetings could be hosted. Nina inquired about incorporating the popularity of the Apple Festival.

Flushing out ideas will be beneficial for February meeting.

Climate Smart –

Mark noted that all members were members of the Climate Smart Task Force.

Documentation – Laura Petit currently working on.

Benchmarking Resolution – Kat Carroll was assisting. Could help coordinate clean energies coordination program. Ellie working on account numbers, etc. for portfolio manager and working with Laura Petit to get information needed. Ellie explained the process for data input.

Next meeting February 16, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Dated: January 19, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Mance, Secretary
Approved: