

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
January 18, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman (left meeting at 8:22 p.m.)
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson (joined meeting at 7:37 p.m.)
Nina Nichols
Lee Gough
Ellie Gartenstein (joined meeting at 8:06 p.m.)
Chris Decicco
Cynthia McVay

Excused: Noel Russ

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Old Business:

Minutes – December 2022 Minutes not provided.

Membership – Christine Baker had not provided application due to an incorrect e-mail address. She planned on attending the February meeting.

UC EMC Minutes – Did not meet in December.

Tree & Shrub Seedlings order – Order had been placed but certain varieties were sold out. 310 saplings are being delivered but will not be shipped until April 18th which is right before Earth Day. Will only give 4 days for them to prepare to distribute for Earth Day. Mark would like to go forward with order and the possibility of scheduling a distribution date if they do not arrive in time. Kathie Quick suggested Arbor Day, Friday April 28th which could be a backup date. The order came to \$290.00 plus shipping.

Repair Café – Next to be held January 28, 2023 at the Ascension Church in West Park. The remaining dates had been provided on the Agenda. Mark would have Laura Petit send out a reminder for volunteers.

Willow Trees at Freer Park – The EB was going to look at the Town of New Paltz policy relative to tree removal to possibly provide policy for the Town of Esopus to use. An email discussion had taken place regarding the concern. Kathie Quick noted that contacts from Cornell Cooperative Extension had been provided for guidance and what plantings would benefit the shoreline. No final decision had been made relative to the future of the willows and options were being considered relative to safety and the health of the trees. The date for the Waterfront Advisory Board (LWRP) January public meeting was discussed and Kathie Quick encouraged everyone to attend. Mark Ellison asked that Lee Gough's suggestions in the email conversation with Councilperson Quick be considered and the issue was in the Town Board's purview. Nina Nichols suggested using the Trees for Tribes resources.

Intern for EB – Laura Petit looking for intern from local colleges and had contacted Bard and Vassar. The position would be easier to fill if it was paid, but approval would be needed from the Town Board. Inter would assist in the Climate Smart Action Plan.

Pollinator Gardens – Setting aside some saplings being delivered for pollinator gardens should be considered. No locations had been decided upon to date. Volunteers were a large consideration for the maintenance of any garden. Lee Gough noted that there were pollinators that could survive without a large amount of maintenance (Black-eyed susan...milkweed). Cynthia McVay noted that getting them established was crucial. Lee Gough agreed to compile a list of what pollinators would do best with low maintenance. Evelyn Clarke stated a particular date for planting would be helpful

New Business:

Goals for 2023 – Lee Gough suggested cutting down on number of waste management providers to reduce the number of vehicles and that one company with green initiatives be an incentive in bidding process. New Paltz had a plan that could be investigated. Mark Ellison stated that it would be a decision for the Town Board. Kathie Quick noted that the transfer station was less costly than haulers. Cynthia McVay suggested investigating how many residents use haulers and how many different companies. More information would be needed prior to providing to the Town for consideration. Laura Petit had joined the meeting and the question was posed to her. She did not support consolidating hauling services and had experienced negative impacts in New Paltz. Cynthia McVay suggested promoting the Transfer Station and its benefits and entertaining bids from possibly 2 haulers (rather than 4) that promote recycling and responsible waste management with a reduction in large waste truck traffic and emissions.

Mark Ellison screen-shared list from 2022, what had been accomplished and what needed to be pursued. Mark Ellison would recirculate list to all members to add to and discuss in February. Lee Gough could then add her wishes for water rights support as well everyone else.

PE9 Project and Social Management (Cornell Co-op) – requesting ability to help EB as a Town relative to warming and cooling stations, climate change resiliency, etc. Supervisor had written a letter in support which would provide the EB the ability to work on action steps.

Mark Ellison had contact with Town of Lloyd EB looking for funds relative to the Black CreekMark Ellison is pursuing with the Town of Lloyd to see benefits to the Town of Esopus in assisting the Town of Lloyd. Mark Ellison read memorandum relative to the water chestnuts cleanup. By joining with the Town of Lloyd, funding may be available for the cleanup of the water chestnuts. Mark Ellison is on the NRI County Committee and would provide minutes to everyone. Each Town would show on a map being prepared that could benefit Esopus for the NRI. Mark Ellison asked if circulating a Google doc would be beneficial and would attempt...suggestions were provided to everyone how to provide input and mark up document without altering the original.

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Climate Smart Task Force –

Laura Petit had focused on concentrated smaller tasks to input into Climate Action matrix.

Discussion on April 23rd Earth Day and Honeybee Jubilee on September 17th. Looking to engage children more for Earth Day and investigating options. A local Beekeeper would be interested in doing a presentation. Mark commented that he had made contact with several qualified people including someone from the beekeeper club that provides lectures and does presentations in school classrooms.

Leave the Leaf, Food Not Lawns table, possible hands-on pollinator for children's involvement. Nina Nichols suggested making pressed flower books. Laura Petit asked for more ideas and send anything her way.

Future Programs:

Composting 102

Environmental Film series

Pollinators

Cynthia McVay supported Laura Petit's suggestion for movie night with an environmental message presented by the EB. Nina Nichols suggested involving the community in developing a pollinator garden at Town Hall. Cynthia asked about what films could be obtained for one time viewing for educational purposes. Laura Petit needs to confirm with Holly Netter when Town Hall would be available.

Repair Café – Nina Nichols' contact - Aurora Brush (Cosmic Doghouse) - would be providing silk screening at the next event. DJ Dan would provide quiet background music for the event. Laura Petit provided a list of volunteers attending. Approximately 8 volunteers and searching for more, especially a seamstress with a sewing machine.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: January 18, 2023

Approved: February 15, 2023