

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
January 17, 2024

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairperson
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson
Chris DeCicco
Ellie Gartenstein
Julie Brinkman

Excused:

Cynthia McVay
Noel Russ (via telephone)
Nina Nichols

Also Present:

Councilperson Evelyn Clarke, TOE Liaison

Public Attendees:

Derick Karabec Jenna Ice
M. Karabec David Krueger
Derek Leung Brian Jacobs
Mike Thorne Thom Hermance
Elizabeth Stanzione-Doreo

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Emergency exits

Chairman Ellison introduced members of the Environmental Board and Town Board Liaison Evelyn Clarke.

Old Business:

Membership: Chairman Ellison noted that the Board was comprised of nine (9) Members and that there was currently one (1) vacancy. Any person interested was encouraged to submit an application.

Minutes: September 2023 Minutes (with correction to Repair Café event) and October (3 guests added) and November 2023 notes. Upon Motion of Laura Petit, seconded by Julie Brinkman, and all in favor, the Minutes and Notes were approved. There was no December 2023 meeting.

UC EMC – There had been no meeting for December 2023. There would be a meeting for January 2024 in two weeks.

Tree Clearing Policy – Tabled for discussion at February meeting. Member Petit requested a printed copy for the next meeting and Member Gartenstein requested edits be emailed to her to incorporate into the draft Google document.

New Business:

Planning Board Referral (Castlemore Holdings Mima, LLC) - Chairman Ellison stated that the process would be reviewed to be followed by comment on the process but not the content. The draft response to the Planning Board would be read. The Planning Board had made a referral to the Environmental Board to review and provide input relative to firepits, tree clearing/plantings and environmental impacts on fauna/flora. The Environmental Board had conducted a workshop to review the materials provided by the Planning Board and draft a response. The response would be provided to the Planning Board for its January 25, 2024, meeting and would thereafter be available to the public via email.

Members of the EB read the content of the draft response to the Planning Board. Responses included comments relative to the central sewage system and discharges from the proposed hot tub wastewater, water systems, usage and effect on the aquifer and water supply, effect on steep slopes and ridgelines and installation of drainage systems, smoke generated by outdoor firepits, hot tubs and woodstoves and

proper disposal of ash, use of chemicals, lighting compliant with dark sky regulations, pet waste, tree removal, and traffic impact.

Members provided input for revisions. Chairman Ellison noted that public comment regarding **process** was being received but not on **content**. Public comment accepted at Planning Board's Public Hearing (Date to be determined). Emails would be accepted.

Upon acceptance of the draft, the document would be provided to the Planning Board and Town Board and thereafter make available after the Planning Board has received the document on January 25, 2024.

Upon Motion of Laura Petit, seconded by Julie Brinkman and all in favor, the referral response was accepted to be forwarded to the Town Board and Planning Board.

Noel Russ left the telephone call.

Sapling Giveaway – Saplings needed to be ordered to receive in time for a scheduled event (Earth Day). The date may be changed from Earth Day to an alternate date. Chairman Ellison noted that the existing signs indicated Earth Day and would need to be altered. "Last Frost Fest" had been suggested and could be held on May 18, 2024, at a location other than Town Hall. A budget of \$300.00 was agreed upon and locations were being considered (ie, Credit Union in Town). Seed swap was considered in addition to the sapling giveaway.

Honeybee Jubilee – Scheduled for Sunday, September 14 to be held at Ross Park. Vendors had already been scheduled to attend. Member Petit asked what additional attractions could be added educationally.

Climate Smart Task Force –

Repair Café – January 27, 2024, was the next scheduled event at the Ascension Church.

Climate Smart NYSERDA Portal – Laura Petit had consulted with Eleanor Peck relative to submission of action steps. Ellie Gartenstein stated that new action grants were available, and the EB was close to meeting the points necessary to apply. Publishing in some capacity would be necessary to qualify. Ellie Gartenstein agreed to forward information to the Town Board. E9 Rack Cards Resolution needed to be adopted by the Town Board to garner points for NYSERDA.

Natural Resource Inventory – Created by the County and could be utilized by the Planning Board and other agencies.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: January 19, 2024

Approved: February 17, 2024