

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
January 15, 2025

Present:

Mark Ellison
Jenna Ice
Nina Nichols
Chris DeCicco
Noel Russ

TB Liaison, Evelyn Clarke

Candidate – Jo Mispel

Member Chris DeCicco lead the meeting.

Meeting commenced in the Community Center at 7:08 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

Membership –

Upon Motion of Noel Russ, seconded by Jenna Ice, the resignation of Julie Brinkman was accepted. There were a total number of four (4) vacancies on the Board. Jo Mispel was a prospective candidate and was awaiting appointment by the Town Board. Jo Mispel was reaching out to a neighbor.

Mark Ellison suggested that the Environmental Board may want to request alternates. Secretary was requested to review draft resolution to the Town Board and forward to Chris DeCicco for review.

New Business:

2025 Events – May 17, 2025 Sapling giveaway/Last Frost Festival and September 14, 2025 Honeybee Jubilee

Focus and Goals – Grant writing process and investigating submission of application(s). Jo Mispel suggested that the Trees for Tribs Grant was currently accepting applications and the deadline was March 2025. Nina Nichols suggested that the Fall participation may be more feasible.

Nina Nichols wanted to focus on pursuing a tree ordinance. She had forwarded previously and had not received a response from CEO Jaffee. A draft policy had been prepared to submit to the Town Board for review. Jenna Ice and Nina Nichols would be contacting CEO Jaffee for his input. Jenna Ice and Noel Russ would provide Chris DeCicco with examples of ordinances in place in other Townships with the goal of finalizing the draft Resolution for presentation to the Town Board in March 2025.

Chris DeCicco suggested considering the possibility of renaming the Honeybee Jubilee. A re-naming contest to raise awareness was suggested to raise awareness and interest.

Obtain materials for the Town website page. Creation of a digital newsletter would be discussed at the February meeting. Members are posting on the “Friends of Esopus” Facebook page.

New Business:

Climate Smart Task Force – Jenna Ice

Jenna was able to gain access to the portal from the prior administrator and was getting acclimated to the process and required documentation. Some documents had been uploaded previously by and she was in the process of obtaining additional information. There were three submissions allowed per year and the goal was to garner Bronze certification by the end of 2025. Jenna Ice would create a list of key items to pursue. Jenna was working with an individual to walk her through the submission process.

EV Charging Station – Jenna Ice had a contact for installation at a local business. Decicco had a business incentive he could provide for her to pass along to the business owner.

Mark Ellison remarked that Legislator Manna Jo Green was still seeking Town representatives to participate in solar mapping. Three previous members had participated but never reported findings.

November Minutes – Upon Motion of Mark Ellison, seconded by Noel Russ, the minutes were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Dated: January 15, 2025
Approved: March 19, 2025