

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING – VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 17, 2021 MINUTES – 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Ellison
Christopher DeCicco
Noel Russ
Cynthia McVay
Stephen Cerini

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:

Council Liaison Kathy Quick
Legislator Laura Petit
Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean
Secretary Lisa Mance
Daniel Helmer (Guest)

Regular Business of Environmental Board

Chairman Ellison called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Upon Motion of Mark Ellison, seconded by Noel Russ, the January 2021 Minutes were approved.

Chairman Ellison introduced himself, Members and attendees to Daniel Helmer. Mr. Helmer provided background and his interests relative to the environment. Outreach Coordinator Dean provided a digital link of the application to Mr. Helmer for his use if he wished to be considered as a potential Member candidate.

Membership Status – Currently four (4) positions available.

UC EMC – Minutes had previously been provided and the next meeting is the last Wednesday of the month.

Hudson 7 – CHPE Project

7 communities included in the Hudson 7 which was drew drinking water from the Hudson River. Upcoming meeting was scheduled for February 25, 2021 – 3 to 5 p.m. Proposal for 2 cables to be run down the Hudson River using a hydro plow to create an 8' deep by 2' wide trench. Councilperson Quick stated that this project had been commented on by the Waterfront Advisory Board in 2011. Noel Russ raised concern of what could be in the sediment that could possibly be resurrected. Chairman Ellison had provided 2 power points from the prior Hudson 7 meeting to the members. Legislator Petit supported the Environmental Board drafting an opinion letter to present to Albany as well as the Hudson 7 meeting and the County Legislature. Noel Russ stated that the permitting process was very far along and provided a link to the Champlain Hudson Power website – <https://chpexpress.com/> in chat. Chris Decico screen-shared photographs of the plowing devices and proposal.

Chairman Ellison suggested that everyone review the power points and if anyone attended the upcoming meeting and provide any questions and/or proposals to include in a letter would need to be provided to him by Friday, Saturday or Sunday, Mark would draft a letter, generate for comment and hope to have a draft response by Monday, March 1st.

NRI and Open Space Plan –

Legislator Petit had been working on the NRI and developing a draft Open Space Plan. Mark Ellison referenced a webinar on Open Space Plans/Inventories (on meeting Agenda). Legislator Petit would continue to work gathering information. Cynthia McVay and Daniel Helmer offered to assist. The document Laura Petit had been working on was provided as a shared document for input. Chairman Ellison recommended contacting Ingrid Haeckel for possible grant opportunities.

Environmental Board Info -

QR for Town Website does work and will take individuals to the Environmental Board page. Steve Cerini had developed Pollinator pamphlet (annexed hereto). Laura Petit suggested that the QR be placed on pamphlet and placed in kiosks throughout the Town. Cynthia McVay inquired as to specific locations to encourage gardens throughout Esopus and maintenance. Chairman Ellison was looking to promote pollinators with information during Earth Day (rather than saplings).

Mark Ellison noted that April 22 was Earth Day and was looking to organize a giveaway at the transfer station on April 24 with the saplings, suggested pollinators and pamphlets.

Incorporating information regarding recycling items curbside as an alternative to adding to landfills was discussed.

Other –

Daniel Helmer noted upcoming Webinar on March 3 “Standout Earth” in partnership with PACE University to educate local governments and official reduce fossil fuel consumption.

EB Newsletter to entitled “Esopus Buzz.”

Marge Pullman provided educational program around Halloween entitled “Bat-o-ween” and offered to provide presentation to Esopus. Mark Ellison asked for information.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted April 5, 2021

Lisa Mance, Secretary

Approved April 21, 2021