

Esopus Environmental Board Notes
February 16, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Chairman Mark Ellison
(7:38 p.m.)
Climate Smart Chairperson Laura Petit (via phone)
Chris DeCicco
Cynthia McVay – Excused
Ellie Gartenstein – Excused

Also Present:

Town Council Liaison Evelyn Clarke

Nina Nichols
Lee Gough

Meeting commenced at 7:08 p.m.

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes – reflect that Evelyn Clarke was welcomed as new liaison but continued interest and service provided by Councilperson Kathie Quick was very much appreciated. All persons present consented to the meeting notes of January 2022 as amended.

Ulster County EMC Update – Minutes were provided by Chairman Ellison. There is not currently full representation from all municipalities on the Ulster County EMC. Mark noted that the “round-about” that took place at the EMC provided important input from the Towns.

2022 Goals – List provided and discussed (will attach with Mark’s approval?)

Membership – Candidates to be interviewed by Town Board February 17th at its regular meeting. Chairman Ellison noted that, if the positions were filled, there is one remaining position and a person under 21 could be appointed. Laura Petit was reach reaching out to the Recycling Oversight to attempt to tap into a younger candidate.

Charging Stations – Need individual to look over costs, number of stations wanted, sites. Chris DeCicco suggested that a former colleague (link provided in chat) that provided information relative to services of EV stations to local communities and advantages. Agreement to invite a representative from the region was supported and Chris DeCicco would reach out for the person to attend the next EB meeting – if not March, Chris would coordinate for April. Climate Smart Chair asked if funding was still available through the State (would need to be investigated).

Social Media Presence /Educational Activities

Mark would take environmental trifold and update the document and asked for a future consensus relative to the reproduction and distribution at events. Laura noted that she was having a conversation with the Town Supervisor and there were other events being discussed – element of education with the documentation being distributed by the Environmental board (such as a QR Code) should be created. The QR Code could direct individuals to the EB website for educational information. Nina Nichols asked if any information could be provided at the local gardens/farmers market to also inform the public and possibility of erecting signage.

4-H Saplings – Trees offered were discussed – EB was inclined to respectfully reject the offer.

Trees for Tribs (buffer in a bag) parleyed into Clean Sweep - Lee Gough inquired if the projects were one and the same. “Buffer in a bag” could be provided to a private or public landowner and needed to be along a 50” waterway (I need to go back in listen to this conversation). Lee Gough was considering her future local involvement with the Riverkeeper and asked if “buffer in the bag” could be useful. Mark Ellison suggested that Council Person Quick would be a good resource. Nina Nichols inquired if the Girl Scouts could be incorporated in the cleanup. Lee Gough would follow up with Councilperson Kathie Quick and Riverkeeper on both topics. Chris DeCicco suggested providing volunteer vests reflecting the Town Environmental Board’s involvement in various projects would promote the EB’s involvement. Mark Ellison looking into the opportunity and Lee Gough would investigate. Chris DeCicco indicated he could take care of the vests and Nina Nichols volunteered to provide silk-screening services with the approval of the EB relative to the design. Laura Petit coordinating with Lee Gough for volunteer services for the Clean Sweep and areas needing assistance.

Sapling/seedling giveaway – milkweed-Monarch seedlings – Mark Ellison asked if the EB would like to continue to support. The EB was receptive, and Mark Ellison would discuss budget with the Town’s Bookkeeper. Distributing funds between the 3 possible educational opportunities and the associated cost would be investigated. Chris DeCicco inquired if money could be raised to support the Environmental Board and support the Board’s budget. Laura Petit indicated it wasn’t allowed but there was a Esopus Community Foundation created that may help facilitate the Environmental Board directly. Laura Petit stressed that “separateness” was important relative to funding. Mark Ellison asked the Members where they would like to see existing funds to be distributed for the upcoming “give-aways.” Laura Petit also indicated that there was an existing beautification fund that could be investigated for possible funding. Councilperson Clarke encouraged discussion with Debbie Kain to look at possible funding. Mark Ellison would speak with Debbie Kain relative to the expenditure of the funds (looking at approximately \$350.00 in expenditures for projects). Laura Petit asked that Mark provide numbers and information to her and the proposal was a benefit to the community and she would discuss with the ECF. Members concurred this strategy was acceptable and the EB should pursue.

Sapling Giveaway – Date tabled until March 2022.

Earth Day (April 22nd) – Chris DeCicco indicated that would be a good “homework” assignment and visit in March (Mark Ellison indicated possible topics – invasive plants).

Secretary Mance would look into what was available to the EB for media information and video information. Providing update to the website for the Esopus Environmental Board and what was required. Chris DeCicco volunteered to develop informational pamphlets and information, together with h

Natural Resource Inventory – Spring 2022 Municipal Solar Mapping Project

Chairman Ellison noted that multiple members could participate but would take a considerable amount of time. He wished to participate but involvement would save funds for the Town of Esopus

Ulster County Arbor Day Tree Locations – Laura Petit volunteered to address that topic.

Greenway Grant – LWRP – Laura Petit and Cynthia McVay were willing to work with Planner Matt Rogers with the recommendations.

Climate Smart Task Force -

Documentation – NY Stretch Code Resolution adopted by the Town of Esopus needed to be forwarded to Ellie Gartenstein to submitted. Secretary would forward to Ellie Gartenstein for processing with NYSERDA.

Benchmarking – Laura Petit indicated that there may be 2 portholes and she was investigating.

Adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Approved March 16, 2022