

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes  
March 20, 2024

**Present:**

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman  
Chris DeCicco  
Ellie Gartenstein  
Noel Russ  
Nina Nichols

**Excused:**

Cynthia McVay  
Julie Brinkman  
Laura Petit (via Zoom)

Meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance with the at 7:04 p.m.

**Old Business:**

**Membership:** Jenna Ice's application was pending for review by the Town Board. There was currently still one (1) vacancy on the Environmental Board.

**Minutes:** Motion by Noel Russ, seconded by Chris DeCicco and all in favor, the minutes as amended were approved.

**UC EMC** – Mark Ellison would forward when received.

**Tree Clearing Policy** – Mark Ellison had circulated draft policy to be marked-up by Members but extensive edits had not been made. The policy would be on the April 2024 Agenda. Ellie Gartenstein would load the draft into Google Docs and circulate for edits.

**Grant Status** – Ellie Gartenstein provided information relative to two grants that were available. Clean Energy Community Action Grants (in the CEC program). One was the electric vehicle program – scoping required public involvement (flier) and the heating and cooling campaign which would involve getting numbers of permits from the Building Department. Secretary would notify Building Department that the Environmental Board would be seeking the information and what would be involved for the Board to get the numbers.

Nina Nichols inquired about the status of a grant writing liaison. Mark Ellison had selected dates to coordinate with the Supervisor, Liaison Evelyn Clarke, Nina Nichols and Laura Petit to discuss. Attempting to select new dates that may be available to discuss.

**New Business:**

**EV Charging Stations** - Mark Ellison had a discussion with Chris Farrell at BOCES and Chris Farrell would mention the possibility at an upcoming meeting, was in support of charging station at BOCES and would report.

Laura Petit had reached out to Central Hudson relative to the make-ready program which referred her to Tom Conrad of Marbletown and his RFP. Discussion ensued relative to pricing and charging station model. There was the possibility that Esopus could "piggyback" off of Marbletown's bid. Status from

Marbletown may be available by April. Chris DeCicco stated that utilization of the lot behind New China should be considered.

**Old Business:**

**Union Center Road Issue** – Site had been visited to make observations. Laura Petit would provide Legislator Herb Litts’ telephone number (engineer) to Chris DeCicco.

**New Business:**

**Initiatives** - Chairman Ellison had provided materials regarding the Code, Town attendance policy, task for information on stormwater and climate smart. Chairman was considering requesting alternates for the Environmental Board as well as Zoom meeting options (hybrid).

**Stormwater Task Force** – Item would be placed on Agenda for discussion in April. Laura Petit sending past 3 years of MS4 reports prepared by the Town.

**UC DEC Municipal Tree Planting Program** - Mark Ellison wasn’t able to reach Europa McGovern. He wished to have a conversation with Europa prior to approaching the Supervisor. Location and types of trees needed to be decided upon. Mark Ellison would be meeting with Europa next week. The trees were approximately 10 feet tall and 2 inches in diameter.

**Zoom** – Mark Ellison had privately created link and only involved Liaison and immediate members, not the public. He wished to pursue a discussion with the Town.

**Climate Smart Task Force:** Laura Petit

**Climate Smart Matrix** – Ellie Gartenstein volunteered to meet with Laura Petit the week of March 25<sup>th</sup> to look at action items to be loaded into the program for the Bronze Certification.

**Last Frost Festival** – Laura Petit would like to confirm contributions and assistance of Members at the event. The event would take place at the MHVFCU. Event would be discussed at the April meeting. Native plant education/foraging was an event to promote, and Nina would reach out to involved individuals. Laura Petit contacting Lamanna for event signs 5-10. Noel Russ would generate design if Laura Petit could provide content ASAP.

**Repair Café** – Event taking place on March 23 at the Ascension Parish Hall, West Park. Mark Ellison read list of coaches who included a tinkerer, seamstress, photo repair and storage, jewelry, woodworking and possibly persons for general and electrical repairs.

**EV Charging Stations** – Discussed previously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: March 20, 2024 Approved: April 17, 2024