

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
April 20, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Chairman Mark Ellison
Climate Smart Chairperson Laura Petit
Chris DeCicco
Nina Nichols
Cynthia McVay
Ellie Gartenstein
Noel Russ (left meeting at 8:00 p.m.)
Lee Gough

Also Present:

Town Council Liaison Evelyn Clarke

Meeting commenced at 7:07 p.m.

Potential candidate Kevin Boller introduced himself and provided background information and interests.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting Minutes – Upon motion of Mark Ellison, seconded by Laura Petit, the March Minutes as amended were approved. QR Code to the website had been created and Mark Ellison was obtaining a sheet of labels that could be added to materials being distributed in the future

Board Membership – Appointment of Kevin Boller would provide a full Board. There were 2 other individuals interested in serving and Mark Ellison asked for suggestions to have those persons join the Climate Smart Taskforce. Laura Petit agreed.

Ulster County EMC Update – March minutes had been forwarded earlier in the day.

CHPE (Champlain Hudson Power Express) Update – Lee Gough had provided a written commentary regarding the project. Kathie Quick stated that the Town of Esopus had gone on record in opposition to the proposal since 2011.

EV Charging Stations – Nina Nichols (working with Laura Petit) had been in conversation with Town's Bookkeeper relative to documentation needed to draft a grant application. Laura Petit stated potential meeting with Town was for fact-finding purposes and suggested that dollar amount of EV station be determined first and work backwards. Nina Nichols asked if information from other Towns could be forwarded to her to provide to the Town of Esopus. Ellie Gartenstein would provide information from the City of Kingston relative to the EV Charging stations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Esopus Earth Day Celebration – Saturday April 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. First event in Esopus. Laura Petit read list of participants that would be attending (17 vendors with 2 food trucks). Help needed in setting up tables. Secretary would leave out Town event sign for use during the event. Various members confirmed timeframes within which they could volunteer to assist.

Mark Ellison stated that the saplings had not been received to date. The event had been posted on the Town's Facebook page and the Town Calendar. Mark Ellison was creating a New York invasive species wall and Noel Russ would provide information regarding program to dispose of paint cans.

Kingston Earth Day May 14 – Decision made not to man a table.

Clean Sweep May 7 – Riker Park needed a cleanup crew. Nina Nicholas was looking into cleaning up by the Plantasiemill but landowner permission would be needed.

CLIMATE SMART –

Scenic Hudson Solar Mapping Tool - Lee Gough and Laura Petit had been attending the solar mapping tool seminars. Upcoming workshop would involve using tool to create actual worksheet of possible sites within the Town of Esopus.

Climate Smart Action Steps- Mark Ellison and Laura Petit participating sessions with Cornell going over action steps. Laura Petit completing action steps that will be gathered and input towards garnering NYSERDA Bronze Certification. Fleet inventory, energy upgrades and resolution needed.

Laura Petit suggested inviting Supervisor to a meeting so that Nina (EV charging stations), Ellie (benchmarking) and Laura (fleet inventory) could present.

Ellie Gartenstein - Everything set up in portfolio manager but was not able to get usage information from Central Hudson for the streetlights. LED lights were installed in 2019. Mark Ellison would look for bills and forward to Ellie.

The May 18th EB meeting would be held via Zoom.

Upon Motion of Cynthia McVay, seconded by Laura Petit, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Prepared May 5, 2022
Approved: May 18, 2022