

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
May 18, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Chairman Mark Ellison
Climate Smart Chairperson Laura Petit
Chris DeCicco
Nina Nichols
Ellie Gartenstein
Lee Gough (left at 7:25 for Solar Mapping)

Also Present:

Town Council Liaison Evelyn Clarke
Town Council Member Kathie Quick

Excused: Cynthia McVay, Noel Russ

Meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting Minutes – April minutes moved to approve by Laura Petit, seconded by Mark Ellison.

Board Membership – Candidate Kevin Boller postponed commitment given recent development requiring him to be out of the Country. Potential member Clyde Thompson has been invited to attend. Another candidate will be invited at a later date to join the Climate Smart Community.

Ulster County EMC Update – Minutes had just been received and Mark would be forwarding.

CHPE Update - Lee Gough reported that the Public Service Commission had approved project on April 14, 2022. Little media had been devoted to the project and what benefit it actually offered communities. Properties in Greene County were being taken by eminent domain to obtain a corridor to the Hudson. There is a stop-work order in place from the Governor's office and efforts to object still should be made. Question was raised if an Article 78 was being considered and/or filed. Cathie Quick reiterated that the Town had issued a letter in 2011 objecting to CHPE. Letter requesting a re-hearing had been sent to the Public Service Commission and had been attached to the meeting materials but there had been no response.

Esopus Earth Day Celebration - Special thanks to Laura Petit for all her involvement and all other members for their work. Laura stated a speaker is already lined up for next year's event. A Public Address system would be needed in the future. Feedback received was that it was too educational and Laura recommended any feedback to build on the event for next year's event. Nina Nichols suggested face painting and creations with recyclables may be considered as a child friendly activity. Mark Ellison added that Supervisor Freer had posted photos and congratulated the Environmental Board for all their efforts and the success of the event.

Sapling Distribution – Mark Ellison looking to set up a table at the event at the Headless Horseman to provide giveaways. There was an existing list of individuals requesting saplings. Mark could set up table, bag the saplings left over but would need to leave but a volunteer attending would be appreciated.

May 7th Clean Sweep – Laura Petit recapped all the work that had been performed by Members including bench repair, painted car and light at the Memorial Park. Bags of garbage had been collected.

Carix Frankii - Mark Ellison asked Councilperson if she could still coordinate the counting of the Carix Frankii. Mark Ellison would be attending with a camera and more information would be provided at the June meeting for the July survey. Thanks to Councilperson Quick! Laura Petit noted that there was a Greenway Grant and interpretive signs were needed and asked if the Environmental Board was willing to match cost for signs. Mark Ellison would look at the budget balance and what was available. Nina Nichols offered services for wood signs that could be created but would need digital file for router program to create a sign. Laura Petit noted the project would need to be completed by August and would require input from the Waterfront Advisory Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Repair Café – June 25 – Would qualify for points for Climate Smart Communities. Ascension Church was available for a donation and it was recommended that the International Repair Café be joined. An application would be needed and Mark Ellison would contact Association to determine what was required to join. Laura Petit stated that the consideration was whether the Environmental Board agreed to join as a Committee. Nina Nichols offered to volunteer after the 25th. Ellie Gartenstein also offered her services and would reach out to contacts she had if needed. The EB Members agreed to pursue organization and would discuss at the June meeting. Laura Petit would work getting parts needed and prices.

Nina Nichols, working with Lee Gough in mapping of wetlands noted that mapping varied widely between FEMA Solar Mapping and Ulster County. Nina Nichols inquired how an updated FEMA mapping could be obtained to protect the wetlands. Mark Ellison stated that the County was working to create a Natural Resource Inventory beginning in June and could investigate how to get answer to the request.

Climate Smart Committee – Laura Petit

Solar Mapping - Lee Gough had left meeting to attend the Solar Mapping meeting.

Climate Action – Laura Petit and Mark Ellison still meeting on actions steps.

Green Fleet Inventory – volunteer needed to completed inventory sheet and a policy was needed to be drafted. Ellie Gartenstein volunteered to draft policy and suggested it would be helpful to have the fleet inventory to draft the policy.

EV Charging Stations – Grant application was needed to be completed. NYSERDA requested the Town to commit. Nina Nichols needed someone to assist her while completing the grant application to log in to Central Hudson’s records on behalf of the Town. A full plan of where the station would be considered, as well as contractor, etc. was required prior to submitting application for the grant. There was an October deadline to take advantage of the grant. Councilperson Clarke offered her assistance as liaison in helping Environmental Board.

Benchmarking – meeting with Kat Carroll who was providing assistance with the process. Elle Gartenstein had provided data for buildings and the data had been provided. To get points, data needed to be shared and Ellie would e-mail her.

Next meeting June 15, 2022.

Extend invitation relative to the flood plain mapping.

Adjourned 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Prepared May 18, 2022