

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes  
May 17, 2023 Meeting Via Zoom

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

**Excused:** Cynthia McVay

**Public:** Eric Rausch, Rinnie McGraw, Kristie Mazzaccari, Travis Hermance, Duane North and David Mercer

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:02 p.m.

**Old Business:**

**Minutes** – April 2023 Minutes were approved as amended (Mark Ellison/Laura Petit – all in favor).

**Membership** – Christine Baker had been officially appointed to the Environmental Board by the Town Board and was welcomed as the newest member. The EB was now a complete Board!

**UC EMC Update** – Minutes will be forwarded when received.

**Earth Day** – Thanks to all. Laura Petit stated vendors were a good representation of an environmental event. Community support wasn't optimal and weather could have been an issue. All of the saplings had been distributed. Mark Ellison stated different signage of the specific event at the location could be beneficial. Guest Eric Rausch suggested volunteers may be stationed along the main road, much like the local Fire Department exercises for events. Eric would report back to the EB with information relative to what was entailed. There was a difficulty in securing food truck(s) and goal was to attempt next year. Lee Gough asked if advertising could be expanded beyond the Town Facebook page. Re-designing Earth Day may involve more experienced- based skills not being offered elsewhere on that day.

Chris Baker noted that the weather in April was a notable issue but possibly a "last frost" event could be considered. Mark noted that extending throughout the year rather than one day could be considered. Nina Nichols suggested a "Friends of Esopus Environmental Board" Instagram. Eric Rausch stated it was only effective when updated and a responsible volunteer would be needed. Nina, Laura, Ellie and Christine volunteered to provide input as a subcommittee as well as Eric Rausch. Mark Ellison cautioned that security of the site would be needed so as not to be "hacked."

**Hudson Lane Update** – Administrative Assistant provided an update as to the status of the Yan review currently before the Planning Board. Chairman Ellison noted that the Environmental Board was an advisory Board. The attendees were informed that the Municipality Administrator for the Town was working with Municipality representative to develop a means for the public to access documents in the program relative to projects.

**CHPE** – Lee Gough had provided information and the next meeting scheduled had been postponed. She encouraged all to watch the Hudson7.org UTube meetings. It was disclosed at the April meeting that TDI

(developer) conducted its own testing relative to the impacts and no third party testing had been entertained. The Town of Esopus was unique in that it hired its own analyst. The developers had been invited to address the Town and responded it would be attending in-person but the date was yet to be confirmed. (Zoom meeting host muted Mr. Rausch).

Lee Gough stated the issue of radioactive waste dumping was being addressed and that there was a Bill being introduced to the State Senate "Save the Hudson Bill." Nina Nichols stated there would be a discussion relative to Local Law 12 with Phil Erner and she would be sending an invite.

Nina Nichols added that Mr. Rieker granted permission to put in a pollinator garden in Rieker Park. Mark requested to provide what plants would be needed and they would be ordered.

Lee Gough stated that composting may be taken to the Kingston Farmer's Market to drop off for free. There was also a need for textile recycling drop-offs.

### **New Business:**

**Ulster County Problem Area Survey** – Had been forwarded to Members. Lee had had trouble in submitting input. Mark Ellison asked if anyone submitted information on a specific area that it be shared with the EB as members as well. The Supervisor and Highway Superintendent were attending a Ulster County Hazard Mitigation meeting update.

**Zoom Meetings** – Mark Ellison learned through the UCCEMC was that virtual meetings were allowed but, unless there was an emergency members attending virtually would not have their vote or attendance counted. A public announcement would be needed for the public location of any member joining virtually. Would in-person meetings be required and should the Zoom option be available as well. Mark Ellison felt that since the EB was an advisory board, it may be possible to continue via Zoom. Laura Petit noted that the County had returned to in person meetings and individuals had the ability to call in. Members wished to continue Zoom as long as possible.

Esopus Family Fund Day would be held at Ross Park on June 4, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Laura Petit provided an update regarding the event.

Mark Ellison would not be available for the August meeting and requested someone chair the meeting.

### **Climate Smart Task Force** –

There would be 133 points when information had been submitted. Laura Petit would like to send final draft packet to everyone with the resolutions for the Town Board review and take action on in June to allow filing by the July 2023 deadline. Location for EV charging stations were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: June 1, 2023

Approved: June 21, 2023