

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
May 15, 2024

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman
Jenna Ice
Nina Nichols
Laura Petit (7 :08 p.m.)
Julie Brinkman
Chris DeCicco

Also Present:

TB Liaison Evelyn Clarke

Excused:

Noel Russ
Meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

Old Business:

Minutes: Motion by Julie Brinkman, seconded by Chris DeCicco and all in favor, the minutes as amended were approved.

UC EMC – April minutes would be provided when received.

Tree Clearing Policy – To be discussed under new business.

New Business:

Membership: Jenna_Ice was welcomed as the newest member. Chairman Ellison read letter of resignation submitted by Cynthia McVay. The Board accepted Cynthia's resignation with regret. Chairman Ellison read resignation letter submitted by Laura Petit. With great regret, the EB accepted the resignation of Laura Petit. Her position as Chairperson of the Climate Smart Task Force was still in effect and would require a separate resignation if she so chose to resign.

Supervisor Meeting: Chairperson Ellison, Nina Nichols, Laura Petit and (Chris DeCicco via Zoom) had met with Supervisor Freer and Councilperson Clarke to discuss various items including potential tree policy and communications amongst the various Town Boards. Offering of trees by NYS DEC was discussed and consultant from the NYS DEC would review location and recommend most suitable tree(s).

Tree Ordinance – Nina Nichols had not been able to locate a specific Code pertinent to tree clearing. The tree clearing policy had been put on hold. Conversation with CEO Jaffee was suggested. Nina Nichols agreed to investigate and share and would reach out to CEO Jaffee.

Nina Nichols forwarding links to grants for heating/cooling campaign to Secretary to pursue with Building Inspector.

Climate Smart Task Force: Laura Petit

Jenna Ice agreed to review NYSERDA Matrix and Google documents to possibly continue input of data required for the Town to garner certification.

Last Frost Festival – Saplings had been delivered to be distributed at the event. There would be music and a presentation by Legislator Manna Jo Green. Chairman Ellison had provided literature that had previously been provided at past events. Jenna Ice had created a pamphlet that would be distributed. Chairman Ellison would undertake having copies made to distribute at the event. Julie Brinkman had prepared natural tick repellent and would have a presentation. Laura Petit would provide information pertinent to composting and Chairman Ellison had a bee enthusiast participating. Chris Decicco would be providing rock painting station and Troop 666 would be preparing seed bombs. A walk through of the location was planned for Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Repair Café – Saturday May 25th to be held at the Reformed Church on Salem Street.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Dated: May 15, 2024
Accepted: July 17, 2024