



Environmental Board Committee
June 15, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom
Meeting Notes - No quorum

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson
Nina Nichols
Lee Gough

Also Present:

Liaison Councilperson Evelyn Clarke
Councilperson Kathy Quick

Excused: Cynthia McVay, Chris DeCicco, Ellie Gartenstein and Noel Russ

Connelly resident - Marietta Badami

Old Business:

May Minutes tabled for next meeting- no quorum,

Membership - Potential Member being invited to July meeting.

UC EMC Update - April minutes had been provided - May would be forwarded upon receipt.

EV Charging Stations Grant Update - Nina Nichols provided update stating that the charging port was the costliest. Grant available does not cover substantial amount. Central Hudson covers installation but not the actual cost of the units. Environmental Board still wished to move forward in pursuing the installation of charging stations. Town was still supportive in obtaining funding opportunities and avenues to gather information. One favorable location was at the Town Hall. NYSERDA may also provide a contractor list that could be utilized, and it offered partial funding. Lee Gough forwarding article regarding Saugerties EV stations to Nina Nichols to review.

New Business:

Repair Café - June 25th - First one for the Town of Esopus. Mark Ellison has applied for the international membership which included a starter kit. The event was to be held at West Park Ascension Church from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Laura Petit had provided a flier to the Members and asked that it be shared on social media. Laura was hoping to attract more volunteers (jeweler, etc.) Volunteer(s) needed to provide coffee and light snacks, greeter and person to sign in attendees. The number of individuals and repairs need to be tabulated as well. The Board asked

for Members to volunteer at least a portion of the day to cover the event and circulate the event information. Laura Petit had sent flier to the Freeman as well as other agencies.

Honeybee Jubilee - Laura Petit stated that now is not too early to start preparing. More honey vendors are needed as well as other presenters.

Carix Frankii Survey - Kathie Quick stated that counting should start prior to July 20th. Councilperson Quick stated she'd like early morning hours and would confirm date with Mark Ellison.

Meeting with Supervisor Freer - Laura Petit, Mark Ellison and Councilperson Evelyn Clarke met with the Town Supervisor. Laura stated that actions were being proposed to build points to obtain NYSERDA certification and obtain the \$5K. Other topics discussed with Supervisor Freer was the Zero Waste Plan, Tree Inventory, and modifications to the Town webpage. Mark Ellison indicated that the Town of Ulster website had an Environmental Board page to emulate. Lee Gough noted that there is a program available to train individuals on tree maintenance. Mark Ellison suggested it could be a program that the EB could promote to maintain the trees. The trees in question were initially installed by New York State along the Main Street corridor and what was the responsibility to maintain them. Laura Petit was contacting Kathy Atwell (Tree City USA) to see what may be necessary. EB looking to address this in July and Laura would contact Ellie Gartenstein.

Connelly Community Garden - Nina Nichols introduced Marietta Badami (a Connelly resident) who was willing to volunteer. Input being sought to determine what donations could be obtained to cover the cost. An ADA ramp presented a challenge and Mark Ellison suggested contacting Lowe's which has been involved in local donations and services. Cynthia McVay had provided questions relative to ownership of the property and obstruction of views which could be impacted by the installation of a fence. Laura Petit and Evelyn Clarke would look into the status of a lease of the property to the Town. The Environmental Board does not have funding for the project but would investigate avenues for donations and funding. Water options were being investigated and connecting to the Town Water could be a topic for discussion. Mark Ellison stated that there was a lot of work to accomplish and the support of the Town Board as well as Parks and Recreation needed to be incorporated. Nina Nichols, noting the process, asked what could take place and what she and the community could provide. Marietta Badami offered her property if it was feasible. Nina Nichols would keep Mark Ellison and the EB in the conversation moving forward.

Climate Smart Task Force - Laura Petit

Laura Petit and Mark Ellison had conducted numerous meetings with Cornell and had gone through action items and created spread sheet. Laura Petit reviewed content of the document.

Fleet Inventory - Elle Gartenstein working on information which would be provided.

EV Charging Stations - Grant may be available and would be investigated.

Mark Ellison noted that many action steps had already taken place and requested information be documented and provided to Laura Petit for input into the Climate Smart Committee matrix.

Nina Nichols had attended a NYS DEC Natural Resources Inventory workshop and shared the information. Nina Nichols would forward information to Members.

Interpretive Signage for Greenway Grant - Laura Petit noted it should be interpretive and educational. She noted that history was welcomed to develop the signage.

Sustainability Initiative Policy - Members noted the expense. Laura Petit suggested that an initiative to assist the residents and what is available should be included on the website.

Virtual Meetings - Chairman Ellison reviewed the requirements of Zoom meetings, and they would continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance Secretary

Prepared June 16, 2022