

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
June 21, 2023 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson
Nina Nichols
Ellie Gartenstein
Chris Decicco

Also Present :

Town Board Liaison Evelyn Clarke

Excused:

Noel Russ
Christine Baker
Cynthia McVay

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:05 p.m.

May 17th Minutes were approved 5-0-3

Membership:

Lee Gough had submitted her resignation to dedicate more time to other ventures. Mark Ellison (upon the suggestion of Laura Petit) would send a letter of gratitude. Ms. Gough had requested that the Environmental Board reach out at any time. Any new candidates may be less than 21 years of age, must be a resident of the Town of Esopus and would be welcome. Mark Ellison would forward Lee Gough's resignation to the Town Board.

EMC – May draft minutes had been provided.

Hudson Lane Update – The project was not scheduled for the June 2023 Planning Board meeting. Mark Ellison provided new information relative to changes made to the plans. Ellie Gartenstein stated that a response didn't necessarily need to involve the Zoning Code. Environmentally, the main concern was that it was a significant development proposed in proximity to wetlands. Ellie would work with Laura Petit to draft a response to forward to the Planning Board. Ellie inquired if the Environmental Board could request that a Long EAF be submitted and Laura Petit would reach out to Noel Russ.

Ulster County Problem Survey – Mark will be investigating next Wednesday evening at the EMC.

Old Business:

Connelly Pollinator Garden – Nina suggested that a small box be created initially in proximity to the new gazebo. Chris DeCicco would reach out to John Cutrone to see if any materials were available. The EB agreed to authorize Nina to expend up to \$700.00. Nina had provided a garden budget. Mark Ellison reminded Nina to keep receipts to submit to the Town's bookkeeper.

New Business:

Carix Franki Count – Mark has app on his phone that can be used for identification and Lee Gough had volunteered to help in the count. Mark would check with Kathy Quick and Lee Gough to determine when in July could be scheduled.

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Climate Smart Task Force –

EV charging station update has not been prepared pending the Greenway Grant proposal. Laura was hoping to talk to Buildings & Grounds and Highway to determine if staff was available to put in concrete pads which would save money. Coordination could be made with Mark Jaffee to determine location at Town Hall. The location at Ross Park proved more challenging to develop.

PE9 – Emergency preparedness – Mark Ellison provided link to the rack card to members. The recommendations from Lee and Laura on the initial design and incorporated into a new rack card which would need to be approved by the Town. A QR code was included that would direct individuals to the Town Website. Councilperson Clarke stated that the Town Supervisor had been working with the County for emergency preparedness.

Repair Café – The July Café would be moved up one week to July 22, 2023 but there would be no coaches available on that date due to a conflict with the New Paltz Repair Café. Nina Nichols could be available and Laura would reach out for a seamstress and the Bruderhof. Another conflict would be in November given the Thanksgiving Holiday. Mark Ellison stated August 26, October 28 and December 30 could be alternative dates.

Honeybee Jubilee – The Honeybee Jubilee has been scheduled for Sunday September 17th at Ross Park from 10-3pm. Laura had about a dozen vendors signed up. Mark would reach out to a presenter. A sound system also would be helpful.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: July 6, 2023

Approved: July 19, 2023