

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
July 19, 2023 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson (7 :25 p.m.)
Nina Nichols
Ellie Gartenstein
Chris Decicco
Cynthia McVay
Noel Russ

Also Present:

Councilperson Kathie Quick

Excused:

Christine Baker

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Old Business:

June 21, 2023 Minutes were approved 6-1-1.

Membership: One vacancy exists. Any candidate must be a Town resident and would submit an application and short resume to the Environmental Board prior to referring to the Town Board.

EMC – There was no June meeting and there were no minutes.

Hudson Lane Update – Letter composed had been forwarded to all Members and had been submitted to the Planning Board and the Town Board. Mark Ellison read the letter into the record. In attendance was Julie Brinkman who expressed an interest in the Esopus Environmental Board and would be providing her contact information to Mark Ellison to have a discussion.

New Business:

Carix Franki Count – The survey had been conducted by Mark Ellison, Lee Gough and Kathie Quick on July 5, 2023. Unfortunately, Central Hudson had previously mowed the right-of-way. As a result, very few plants were able to be identified and Kathie Quick was going to revisit the site to see if any more could be located and added to the survey. The proposal from Scenic Hudson was that the survey must be conducted after July 17th which may be creating the issue in the survey.

Budget -

Mark Ellison screen-shared the Budget. He suggested requesting to increase personnel services of the Secretary to \$800.00 for 2024. The Members agreed to request \$2,500.00 under contractual.

Signage – Mark Ellison screen-shared the image of the new sign erected on 9W. He asked the Members for approval to plant and stated that the Town Supervisor was amenable and funds may be available in the Environmental Budget. Mark would reach out to Nina Nicholas to provide the plants.

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Climate Smart Task Force –

PE9 – Emergency preparedness – Joanne Matthews and Supervisor Freer met with Mark Ellison and discussed rack cards and post cards that could be placed into the Town’s kiosks. Websites were provided that contained examples of cards. The cards would have QR codes to direct individuals to the Town website that would contain information on disaster preparedness and recovery tips. If they were created, costs would be borne from the EB budget but would also provide points towards the NYSERDA certification. On August 2, 2023, Joanne will be at the TOE Library to discuss climate change and emergency preparedness. All Members were encouraged to attend. Ms. Matthews will also have a table at the Emergency Preparedness Expo on September 23, 2023 at Ross Park.

Repair Café – Taking place Saturday August 5, 2023 (date had been moved) at the Ascension Church from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Nina asked if she could make the tiny libraries at the Repair Café.

Honeybee Jubilee – The Honeybee Jubilee has been scheduled for Sunday September 17th at Ross Park from 10-3pm. Laura Petit will focus more on the event in August.

On July 27, 2023 the Ulster County Natural Resource Inventory Task Force will be asking the public for input and/or participation. One event via Zoom July 27 and Mark Ellison would provide link. Laura Petit stated that same date at Town Hall at 6:00 p.m., a meeting of the Ulster County Public Works to discuss public transportation was being held. Mark stated that the NRI will be demonstrating an on-line tool that has been developed to be available to Planners and building considerations.

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 the Ulster County Climate Smart Roundabout at the Rosendale Community Center and was taking place and Mark Ellison encouraged Members to attend the event in lieu of a monthly meeting. Mark would be out of the State and it was agreed that the August meeting of the Environmental Board would be cancelled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Dated: August 8, 2023
Approved: