

## Esopus Environmental Board Notes

July 17, 2024

### **Present:**

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman

Jenna Ice

Chris DeCicco

### **Excused:**

Noel Russ

Julie Brinkman

Nina Nichols

Meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:18 p.m. No quorum.

### **Old Business:**

**Minutes:** The May 2024 minutes were accepted. There was no meeting in June given the holiday.

**County Arbor Day** had been moved to Fall. Fall would be a more favorable planting time and the prices may be better.

### **UC EMC –**

**Fencing at James Rieker Park** – Undertaken by Nina Nichols to coordinate the improvements.

### **New Business:**

**Membership:** Board Membership is down three (3) persons. Chris DeCicco had an interested resident that was involved with the Ulster County Native Nursery and native species and sustainable plant life. Chris DeCicco would provide an application to the individual who may attend the next meeting. Cathy Atwell expressed interest in joining the EB after meeting the members at the Last Frost Fest but asked to possibly be considered in the future.

**Grants** – Secretary to forward data on heat pump data for Town to all Members. Secretary to determine the source of the Solar/Infrastructure Grant that was available.

**Black Creek Watershed Assessment Grant** – Lloyd ECC had communicated with Mark Ellison to submit letter of support. Partnering with the Town of Lloyd may prove beneficial and Members were asked thoughts on possible funding.

Mark Ellison read email from concerned citizen relative to the use of herbicides and a particular property in the Town. Mark was hoping that Noel Russ could provide information relative to the use of herbicides. Jenna Ice would look into MS4 regulations.

Chris DeCicco noted the growing evidence of the invasive Tree of Heaven which attract stink bugs and the Spotted Lantern Fly. Japanese Knotweed is also being found and there was specific remediation that could take place to destroy. Japanese Knotweed is invasive and could reduce property values and increase erosion. Chris suggested a PowerPoint presentation to educate on remediation of the invasive plants. Jenna stated that Esopus Lighthouse Park had Tree of Heaven present which could be an ideal

location to host a presentation. A possible booth could be operated at the upcoming Honeybee Jubilee event. Chris and Jenna would join forces to coordinate engaging an educator on the topic.

**Carex Frankii Survey** – Environmental Board with Councilperson Quick had been conducting the survey for the past 11 years. Survey is needed to take place in July and Mark is hoping to conduct survey the week of July 22, 2024 to visit Sleightsburgh to count.

**Climate Smart Task Force:** Laura Petit

Letter of resignation of Laura Petit had not yet been submitted. Mark Ellison would reach out to Laura and determine the status of the Climate Smart Committee.

**Repair Café** – August 3, 2024 10:00 a.m -2:00 p.m. at the Ascension Church in West Park. Chris DeCicco planned on attending.

In lieu of August 2024 meeting, Members will be attending the Ulster County DEC Roundabout in Rosendale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: July 17, 2024

Approved: September 18, 2024