

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes  
September 21, 2022 Meeting Via Zoom

Present:

Chairman Mark Ellison  
Climate Smart Chairperson Laura Petit (7:10 p.m.)  
Chris DeCicco  
Ellie Gartenstein (7:11 p.m.)  
Lee Gough  
Nina Nichols

Also Present:

Town Council Kathy Quick  
Town Council Liaison Evelyn Clarke  
(left meeting at 7:34 p.m.)

Excused:

Noel Russ

Meeting commenced at 7:06 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Board Membership** – Mark Ellison spoke to a potential candidate Clyde Tompson who is considering if he would have time to contribute. Mark suggested that he consider becoming a member of the Climate Smart Task force only. Kevin Bohler had been relocated to Argentina, was recently married and unsure of how long he will be in Argentina.

**UC EMC Update** – No July Meeting. Harry Turbush of the National Power Group will be presenting on Hydroelectric Power in the Hudson Valley at the September 2022 meeting.

**Repair Café** – Event took place on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Members Ellie Gartenstein, Noel Russ, Nina Nichols and Lee Gough had participated as Coaches. There were 10 coaches with approximately 30 repairs. Laura Petit provides a data form to Sustainable Hudson Valley after each event. Library is now hosting a Repair Café as well (October 8, 2022). There appeared to be no conflict as long as persons attend and coaches were available.

**Ulster County Municipal Roundtable** – Cynthia McVay, Laura Petit and Mark Ellison attended in August representing Esopus Environmental Board. All agencies provided a review of what they had accomplished, and the Towns provided reports on their progress. Laura Petit spoke for the Esopus Climate Smart Task Force. Cynthia McVay noted that many of the Towns were duplicating actions and the process could use consistency and be more efficient if information was shared.

**Honeybee Jubilee** – The event was well attended with 24 vendors. Laura Petit, Ellie Gartenstein and Mark Ellison attended as well as the Town Supervisor and 2 Board Members. Laura Petit would like a presentation from one of the participants in the future. Laura Petit will create a file of event materials and the event will be organized for 2023.

**CHPE** – Lee Gough provided an update. Test jet plowing had commenced to locate location for the placement of the cable and possible testing was taking place. TDI spokesperson expected to speak to all Hudson 7 municipalities. Clean water rights were a concern. Lee Gough had been working with Phil Erner on resolutions to present to the UC EMC and the Ulster County Legislature. Neighbors had created an organization to save the water and had been speaking with an attorney involved with helping municipalities gain ordinances that give water itself existential rights and people rights to clean water. Lee Gough provide draft of the “rights of nature” resolution.

Chairman Ellison introduced Lydia Gershey. Ms. Gershey reviewed content of her power point presentation to save the willows at Freer Park. Chairman Ellison requested Evelyn Clarke as EB Liaison to the Town Board to inform the Town Board that its position was to request a stay on any actions relative to the willow trees until the Environmental Board was able to visit the site and obtain accurate and true information to present. Councilperson Clarke requested Chairman Ellison to email her that request. Ms. Gershey was encouraged to continue her advocacy for the willow trees and preservation of pollinator areas Ellie Gartenstein, Nina Nichols and Lydia Gershey work to prepare a proposal for the EB October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting that could be presented to the Town Board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Repair Café** – Next event scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. Details would be discussed at the October 19<sup>th</sup> EB meeting. Chairman Ellison asked Laura Petit if she could continue recruitment of coaches for the event. Mark Ellison would take care of set up at the Church and Nina Nichols and Lee Gough agreed to participate as well as Chris DeCicco

**Ulster County Clean Water Ordinance** – (Rites of Nature) Lee Gough stated that it was going to be introduced but research needed to be conducted. She would let the EB know if support from them was needed. Lee Gough was reaching out to the Town Supervisor. Lee Gough also encouraged comments be provided to the Hudson 7. Nina Nichols recommended sending out a reminder the day before the next Hudson 7 meeting.

**Spotted Lantern Fly** – Secretary Mance had found a dead Spotted Lantern Fly on the Town Hall property and had reported to the NYS DEC. Educational pamphlets were provided at the Honeybee Jubilee and the pamphlet was placed on the Town website. Any information to get out to the public would be welcome. Mark Ellison suggested contacting BOCES to encourage students to be educated.

#### **Climate Smart Task Force – Laura Petit**

**EV Charging Stations** – EB Members had been very involved in communicating via e-mail. Laura Petit asked someone could cover for her at the September 22 Town Board meeting. Port Ewen qualifies as a disadvantaged community and would be eligible for 100% funding. A Resolution to allow the EB to apply for the grant was needed and Councilperson Clarke volunteered to present to the Town Board.

Everyone had been working the Climate Smart Action steps collaboratively. Laura Petit could put sustainable initiatives into a google document which could pull in passed resolutions and resolutions and policies they would like passed. Nina Nichols would help Ellie Gartenstein when she was available (weekends). Minutes needed to be researched. Mark Ellison had a checklist as to what would be needed regarding the appointment of Members and their attributes.

**Indian Point Discharge** – Laura Petit had prepared a Resolution in opposition to the discharges to be present by the EB to the Town Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Approved October 19, 2022