

Esopus Environmental Board Notes
September 18, 2024

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman
Jenna Ice
Chris DeCicco
Julie Brinkman
Nina Nichols

Excused:

Noel Russ

Guest: Seena Ranchendari

Meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m. Chairman Ellison noted the emergency exists

Old Business:

Minutes: The July 17, 2024 Minutes were approved.

New Business:

Membership: Chairman Ellison noted that the Environmental Board was a 9-member Board and there were currently 6 Members. Two interested individuals were present – Robert Yerry and Sabrina McCormick and the Chairman made introductions. Chairman Ellison directed attention to the Mission Statement included in the Agenda and noted that that the EB was an advisory Board. The Minutes and Agenda were public and could be located on the Town's website.

Nina Nichols stated that living in the community allows Members to develop communications between the community and the Town.

Robert Yerry expressed his frustrations relative to a discharge from a structure on an adjacent property into a stream. He had spoken with various Town officials to request water testing and had been directed to contact the Ulster County Board of Health and/or the NYS DEC but he did not wish to contact those agencies. Jenna Ice requested Mr. Yerry's contact information to see if she could investigate getting assistance. Mr. Thomas preferred to have the Town deal with situation rather than contacting another agency. Jenna Ice explained that the DEC initially generated notices of violation that could be remedied prior to levying fines. Mr. Yerry stated that he was surprised that these types of issues couldn't be addressed by the Building Department.

Roundabout – Members had attended the meeting in Rosendale in lieu of the August meeting. Members from 23 other Towns and Boards attended, including the Environmental Management Council. It provided the opportunity to hear what other Boards had accomplished or were working on. There was a grant discussed for pollinator spaces in disadvantaged communities and forest rehabilitation. The information would be shared with the Members.

CHPE – Nina Nichol stated that the Supervisor had informed her that the jet-plowing was being commenced on August 26th in the vicinity of the intake for the water treatment plant which would be shut down during that period of time as a precautionary measure.

County Arbor Day – Trees being moved to fall plantings. Mark Ellison would be at the County meeting the following Wednesday and would pursue to see where the Town stands. Four red maples were being sought to replace the Freer Park willows that had been removed.

Black Creek Watershed Assessment – No update to provide and Mark Ellison had not heard from the Town of Lloyd.

Honeybee Jubilee – Mark Ellison thanked Nina Nichols, Jenna Ice, her daughter Avery, and Julie Brinkman. Oma’s provided food with the portable kitchen.

Carex Frankii Survey – Mark Ellison conducted survey but it had taken place late in the season on August 14, 2024. He needed to complete the report and submit.

Planning Board meeting – Public Hearing for proposed wellness retreat took place on September 16, 2024. Jenna Ice stated that the meeting was well attended and lasted until midnight. The Public Hearing was held open.

New Business:

Grant Status – Information still needed from Secretary. Nina Nichols inquired if a grant writer could be engaged. Nina Nichols would draft an email to the Town Board to be reviewed by Members prior to sending.

Budget Information – Bookkeeper Debra Kain had requested response from the Environmental Board regarding the 2025 budget. There was currently \$2,300.00 left in the budget as well as approximately \$12,000.00 in escrow.

Climate Smart Task Force:

Mark Ellison made nomination for Jenna Ice to be the Chairperson of the Task Force. Mark Ellison would present to the Town Board.

Repair Café – To be held on September 28, 2024. Mark Ellison requested assistance from any person available. Chris DeCicco had been one of the coaches for the Cafes who stated that persons for sewing, general electronics and woodworking among other repair coaches had provided services. The goal was to keep items out of the landfills.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Dated: September 16, 2024
Approved: