

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes  
October 18, 2023 Meeting – No quorum

**Present:**

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman  
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson  
Cynthia McVay  
Nina Nichols

**Also Present:**

Councilperson Evelyn Clarke

**Excused:**

Chris Decicco  
Ellie Gartenstein  
Christine Baker  
Noel Russ

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:10 p.m.

**Old Business:**

Minutes – Tabled for quorum to vote.

**Membership:** One vacancy exists. Any person interested must be a Town resident, complete an application, attend an Environmental Board meeting which determines recommendation to the Town Board. Julie Redmond in attendance, requested an application.

**UC EMC** – September 2023 meeting minutes were not available. Guest from Goshen/Middletown attempting to raise funds for recycling plant. Mark Ellison will provide minutes when available.

**Riecker Park Pollinator Garden** – Nina Nichols had found that plants in the garden had been damaged/cut. Steve Cerini had been attempting to gather fencing (not for protection of the plants). Nina Nichols researching fencing styles that would fit with the park. Mark Ellison noted that the Town and Building/Parks would need to review any fence proposal. The fence would help delineate the perimeters of the garden. Mark Ellison requested a rendering of what may be proposed. The Town Supervisor had been notified of the vandalism. Insurance didn't cover damages to vegetation. Councilperson Clarke as Liaison would raise the matter at the Thursday evening Town Board meeting.

Laura Petit suggested have Earth Day celebration at Riecker Park. Members present supported the concept but parking would be an issue. To be further discussed in November.

**Yan Property Update** – Planning Secretary gave basic update to the Members noting that a new plan had been submitted and the Planning Board was recirculating its notice of intent to serve as lead agent on the SEQRA review. Mark Ellison had information on the project that he would be providing to the EB Members.

**New Business:**

**Ulster County Natural Resource Inventory** – link to new site had been provided by Mark Ellison and he would also be forwarding to Chairperson of the Planning Board. Nina Nichols was reaching out to Ingrid Haekel relative to what was required for the Town to develop its own Natural Resource Inventory.

**Tree Clearing Policy** – New information to follow when Ellie Gartenstein could attend.

**Recycling Signage for Parks** – Laura Petit inquired if three (3) quotes were required to entertain bids. The EB would confirm with Town Clerk what was required. Laura Petit would gather price quotes in the meantime. Signage was planned for every park that had containers. Mark Ellison checking with Town Clerk regarding disposing of refuse for Town related functions.

**Other** – Film October 26<sup>th</sup> – screening of documentary of Riverkeeper – flyer circulated to Members present.

Mark Ellison noted that the new Planning Consultant may be an individual the EB may be interested in inviting to speak.

Diane Dintruf had extended a request to the EB for preserving marshlands and Sleightsburg Park. The request had been also forwarded to the Waterfront Advisory Board which was thought to be the appropriate Board to discuss the matter.

Nina Nichols asked if anyone should be attending Hudson 7 meetings to obtain training for drinking water protection. Mark Ellison noted that residents that are public water should receive the information with their water bills and suggested that Lee Gough may be able to assist. DEC providing free technical assistance program webinar on October 25.

**Climate Smart Task Force** –

**EV Charging Stations** – Town Supervisor met with Europa McGovern and still working on arrangements for location in the back of Town Hall. Evelyn Clarke suggested that the EB consider inviting Europa McGovern to discuss the feasibility of location at BOCES and other locations. Mark Ellison would reach out.

**PE9 – Emergency preparedness** – Mark Ellison had rack cards for display. A QR code directing persons to the EB page on the Town's website was included on the rack card. Cards could also be distributed to diner and the Port Ewen Seniors.

**Repair Café** – December 2, 2023 (no November Café) at new location to be determined.

Request from Eleanor Peck – Energy Code Training – Sal Morello and Mark Jaffee had attended previously and earned points toward the certification.

Meeting adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: October 18, 2023