

## NOTES – NO QUORUM

In Attendance: Mark Ellison, CYNthia McVay, Chris Deccio, Elle Gartenstein, Laura Petit, Noel Russ, and Town Board liaison Kathie Quick.

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

MOTION to accept the October minutes was made by Mark Ellison and seconded by Cynthia McVay. All in favor.

MEMBERSHIP - Laura said she had contacted a member of The Mount community who had been interested in becoming an Environmental Board member, but as of this date had not confirmed he was still interested in joining. She also had received an email from a Connelly resident that expressed interest in a position on the Board and will send a volunteer application to her.

UPDATES - Mark reviewed the 88 page Conservancy Trail grant application designating Lighthouse Park as part of the Greenway access along with Sleightsburgh Spit. The grant would provide infrastructure updates such as kiosks and trail maintenance, and education on local flora and fauna.

Kathie said she hasn't heard anything more from Matt Rogers, Laberge Group about the application but will keep this Board up to date.

NY Stretch Code Status - Mark said he just received notification from Jared Geuss to put the StretchNY code as a referendum on the November agenda. Elle had produced a draft resolution for the Board to review and take action on at their upcoming November 18th meeting. Mark reminded the Board that the NYSERDA funding for towns that adopt the NYStretch code had a stop date of December 31st. Cynthia was concerned that the deadline was very close and if the Town Board had further questions or revisions, it may miss the cut off for funding. Elle was concerned that the Esopus town code did not have an existing section that the NYStretch code could be applied to but, if the Building Department provided the appropriate section, she would be willing to revise the DRAFT resolution for Town Board discussion.

The Board had further discussion on the code, and whether the town Board would be comfortable moving forward with the vote. Elle felt that if the Environmental Board approached the Town Board with the support of the Town building inspector Mark Jaffee, we may have a better chance of having the code passed.

## NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS - Mark discussed the workshop hosted by UC Cornell and in partnership with the Towns of Esopus, Lloyd and County of Ulster. As part of this project, Brent Gotsch and Melinda Herzog from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County worked with both towns to

complete New York State's Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool, which helps local decision-makers identify planning and adaptation opportunities to reduce their community's vulnerability to climate hazards. Mark said that Cornell would provide a presentation to Esopus, and they have offered to include the town in their 2022 Climate Resiliency Work Plan to further assist the Town. Laura and Mark had forwarded a DRAFT letter of interest to be included in the Work Plan. Supervisor Geuss text Laura back during the Environmental Board meeting that Melinda Herzog could be told the Town was interested and a formal letter would follow after their Town Board meeting tomorrow night (November 18th)

There was discussion about available funding left from previous grants. Mark mentioned that the 2022 budget information was not on the town website. Only the 2022 Revenues had been posted.

NEXT MEETING - Mark polled the Board to see if they wanted a December meeting. The Board agreed that they would be available to meet on December 22nd.

CLIMATE SMART -Laura discussed the Ulster County Climate Smart committee that meets the last Monday of the month and that they are requesting monthly updates from Climate Smart communities. Elle mentioned there is additional funding available for clean energy communities phase II of \$5,000 in addition to the NYStretch \$5,000 once the Town approves the code. Esopus has already completed four high impact action steps and needs on more for Phase II. There is also funding available once the Town "hits" 3,000 action points. Since the Town was already at 1,000 points, when it hits 3,000 there would be another \$10,000 in funding. The NYStretch code is 1,200 points, and the benchmarking that Elle is doing is 300-400. EV Charging stations are 1,000 points.

Laura suggested that the Environmental Board consider focusing on EV Charging stations and roll out new recycling signage for next year. Cynthia asked if the Town would consider something as radical as decentralizing electric and provide a change in zoning requiring solar installation on all suitable buildings. Chris said that there may be a way to include in the zoning code that solar is mandated on new construction. He said ultimately when the sun goes down, we still need to rely on Central Hudson unless the Town or a business is interested in putting in battery bank storage for use. He said he had read that there were towns in Canada that had battery storage banks at critical buildings like hospitals. Kathy said if there was an incentive for businesses with large roof space, it may work out.

Meeting adjourned 8:12pm

Submitted by Laura Petit  
Approved January 19, 2022