

Esopus Environmental Board Minutes
November 15, 2023 Meeting – no quorum

Present:

Mark Ellison, EB Chairman
Ellie Gartenstein

Also Present:

Councilperson Evelyn Clarke

Excused:

Chris Decicco
Noel Russ
Nina Nichols
Laura Petit, Climate Smart Chairperson
Cynthia McVay

Also present: Julie Brinkman, potential candidate.

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Mark Ellison read emails from Chris DeCicco and Christine Baker(Resignation from EB).

Ms. Brinkman had provided a resume and application. She addressed the members providing her background, education and interests. Ms. Brinkman felt she could help move the EB further in achieving the NYSERTA certifications.

Mark Ellison called Nina Nichols. Mark Ellison suggested that Ms. Brinkman be recommended to the Town Board for membership consideration.

Old Business:

September 2023 Draft Minutes and October 2023 Meeting notes were tabled until the December meeting.

Mark would poll members relative to holding December 20th meeting – Nina and Elle were able to attend.

Membership: Two (2) vacancies exist.

UC EMC – Mark Ellison would provide October 2023 minutes when located.

Riecker Park Pollinator Garden – Nina Nicholas had meeting with Town representatives about post and rail fence with a kiosk (similar to Scenic Hudson’s) would be acceptable. She would next need to meet with Buildings and Parks personnel. If the EB wished to purchase material from current budget, the fence could be installed and could happen at any time if the ground wasn’t frozen. (Nina was going to continue to look for donations).

NRI Development for Esopus– Ingrid Haeckel had recommended to reach out for a grant and possibly partnering with another municipality (Lloyd). Nina Nichols would continue conversation with Ingrid Haeckel to pursue. Mark Ellison suggested that another municipality to partner with may be advisable. Mark indicated that Noel Russ may be a good source to be involved.

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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.

Castlemore Holdings (Yan) update – Secretary stated that there was an Appeal filed by the Karabecs and that it was on the ZBA Agenda for November 21st.

Tree Clearing Policy – Ellie would provide information at the next meeting.

New Business:

Repair Café – Laura Petit had spoken to Town Clerk. Certificate of Liability Insurance was required to use Reformed Church on December 2 from 10 – 2 . Nina could attend and Mark would notify Laura Petit.

Climate Smart Task Force –

Grants - Ellie had prepared scoping documents. Two grants were available and easier to obtain. One was the Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign – grant periods ended at the end of 2025 (heating installation permits could be obtained from the Building Department to qualify if the Town required). Ellie was putting herself as the contact person with approval from the EB. Documents would need to be submitted first to commence campaign. Electric vehicle campaign – Ulster County DMV had a database that could be utilized to obtain the necessary information to commence the campaign. Ellie would submit documentation to move forward.

Rack Cards – Would be provided to senior housing developments and would be placed in the kiosk in Rifton.

Energy Code Training – request from Eleanor Peck could earn points toward certification. If Sal/Mark attended again it would count toward CSC Bronze Certification.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary
Dated: November 15, 2023