

TOWN OF ESOPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Dintruff
Kathy Foley
Kathie Quick

Mark Ellison
Karyn Grieco

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jen Barrows
Annmarie Belfiglio

Don Cole

GUESTS

Nava Tabak
Matt Shipkey

Our guests this evening, Nava and Matt are from Scenic Hudson. They are here with us tonight to discuss the findings, managing and monitoring of a State Endangered Plant, Carex frankii, more commonly known as Frank's Sedge. Last August, Kathie and a few others met with Scenic Hudson at the Sleightsburg Park to locate and map the plant. All this as done in accordance with a Conservation Easement between the Town of Esopus and The Scenic Hudson Land Trust Inc dated July 15th, 1996.

In conjunction with Scenic Hudson acquiring the property, In the fall of 1993, Erik Kiviat of Hudsonia Ltd, at the request of the Town and concern from Scenic Hudson conducted a preliminary survey of the area as with respect to proposed park facilities. Mr. Kaviat found a population of Frank's Sedge. The plant was monitored for several years before the property became the Towns. For several years the plant, per the easement, was monitored by the Town but in recent years had not been done so.

In April of 2012, The Town received a letter from Scenic Hudson, with an excerpt from the management plan pertaining to Frank's Sedge required by the New York State Department of Conservation. The plant is to be monitored every year and a report given to DEC. Also, any improvement to the area requires DEC approval and permits.

In August of 2012, a dozen or so groups with 170 or so clumps was documented and mapped. Those findings, along with the initial study in 1993, easement information, photos of the plant and maps can be found at

<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/15080112/Carex%20Frankii%20BDR%20Package.pdf>

Diane asked when the plant may become non-endangered. Monitoring needs to be continued and reported to DEC and they will make that determination. She also suggested getting students from Bard involved in the annual monitoring.

There is also a gas line easement on the property. Central Hudson is aware of the plant and there is an agreement in place with respect to dates for their mowing, not after a certain date in the spring and not before a certain date in the fall.

John stated that the tide does not appear to effect the growth of Frank's Sedge, but was curious as to whether Hurricane Irene or Storm Sandy would have any impact.

Scenic Hudson applied for and received a Grant to rebuild the Environmental Education Center at Esopus Meadows that was destroyed by Hurricane Irene.

Bud Hossenlopp, from the Town of Lloyd Environmental Conservation Council joined in on a discussion with Scenic Hudson with respect to the Riverfront, Shaupaneak Ridge, and the Black Creek. And how they would like to connecting these trails and have one continuous walkway through the Towns.

Scenic Hudson is also celebrating their 50 year anniversary in 2013.

We thank Nava and Matt for their time this evening and look forward to working with them in the future.

As our regular meeting continued:

Mark made a motion to accept the minutes from Jan. 9, 2013, seconded by John and approved by all.

Mark made a motion to accept the Secretary's pay voucher, seconded by Kathy and approved by all.

The annual sapling giveaway will be Saturday, April 27th at the Library. They are having a family outdoor program beginning at 2pm. We will coordinate times at the next meeting. John, Mark and Kathie have volunteered their time. Thank you.

Mark asked that our information on the Town's website be updated with respect to membership and up to date with the minutes. Karyn will look in to this.

There being no further business Karyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John and approved by all. Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm. Next meeting Wed. March 13, 2103

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn E. Grieco
Secretary