

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK – Nov. 13, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**

**PRESENT:**

Chair David Hutchison  
Commissioner Tracy Allen  
Commissioner Dale Burrington  
Commissioner Richard Denicore  
Commissioner George Palladino  
Council Member Larry Malone

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner Joan Fox  
Commissioner Lucille Wiggin

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The minutes of the previous meeting on September 11 were approved as presented.

PETITIONERS - None. Jonathan Gell was present

Commissioner Denicore offered Congratulation to Chair Hutchison on being name “Conservationist of the Year” by the Otsego County Conservation Association. Denicore stated that “This is an honor that all, I am sure will agree, is well deserved. David’s leadership and commitment to the environment makes this honor an easy choice for the OCCA.

CORRESPONDENCE Chair Hutchison had no correspondence to share.

REPORT - Chair Hutchison reported that as of October 23<sup>rd</sup> a total of 254 trees have been planted this year. A breakdown of the various species planted this fall is attached. In addition to median and private property plantings, Commissioner Palladino pointed out, some have been planted in parks and other common areas. Over the course of the Environmental Board’s tree planting program about 500 trees have been planted.

Chair Hutchison noted that the Watershed Protection issue may be revisited soon by the Oneonta town board which may look more favorably on the regulations as a result of the recent election.

Chair Hutchison announced that the Sustainability Working Group has set the date of March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Foothills Civic Center for a summit session. Neil Murphy, President of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry may be the featured speaker. Hanna Masterjohn has agreed to coordinate the event.

Commissioner Palladino reported that a grant to fund the Emerald Ash Borer Plan is being prepared by the city but first must wait for responses to the RFP's for inventory work.

There was a brief discussion of the Mayor's initiative to involve the youth in a program to help with tree maintenance.

The question of the Environmental Board December meeting was left open.

There followed open discussion regarding several articles that the Chair had distributed.

- DEC's proposed rules for LNG
- County Composting Plans
- Workshop on Energy Conservation
- Recent panel New York Shale Gas Potential (Chip Northrup, Lou Allstadt, *et al*)

Chair Hutchison opened the floor for a discussion on the role of the Environmental Board which was prompted by a discussion he had had with Jonathan Gell. In this vein, Commissioner Allen noted that we have generally been reactive to events in the past but suggested we might now try to become more proactive. Council Member Malone supported this notion with an example of a project he initiated to repair city sidewalks which saved thousands of dollars.

Continuing on the theme several areas the Environmental Board might focus on were suggested, namely: maintenance of trees, composting, alternative energy possibilities, involvement of youth in environmental projects. As to composting, it was suggested we invite the person in charge of the composting program at SUCO to a future meeting.

With a disappearing quorum, at 8:10 a call for adjournment was agreed to.

Attachment #1

<b>City Trees Planted</b> <b>Fall 2013</b> <b>as of Oct. 23rd</b>			
<b>Tree Species</b>	<b># of trees</b>	<b># of species</b>	<b>Total</b>
Crabapple	7		
Crabapple Prariefire	1		
Crabapple Cardinal	5		
Crabapple Purple prince	3		
Crabapple Red	3		
Crabapple Red Jewel	6		
Crabapple Tina	1		
Crabapple White	2	28	
Dogwood, Kousa	5	5	
Elm	24		
Elm, Liberty	5	29	
Golden Rain Tree	1	1	
Hawthorn, Crusgali	1	1	
Hornbeam, E	3	3	
Katsura	3	3	
Lilac, Japanese	5	5	
Linden	4	4	
Locust	7		
Locust, Honey	1	8	
Maple	2		
Maple Crimson King	2		
Maple Red	5		
Maple Red Leaf	3		
Maple S	1		
Maple Sugar	3	16	
Oak	2		
Oak Burr	2		
Oak Red	4	8	
Pear	22	22	
Redbud	1	1	
Shadblow	6	6	
White Fir	3	3	143