

PRESENT: Chair David Hutchison
Commissioner Joan Fox
Commissioner Denicore
Commissioner Dale Burrington
Commissioner George Palladino
Commissioner Lucille Wiggin

ABSENT: Commissioner Tracy Allen
Council Member Larry Malone

Chair Hutchinson called the regular meeting to order and called the roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION, made by Commissioner Burrington and seconded by Commissioner Denicore that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 12, 2013 be approved.

Voting Ayes: Chair David Hutchison
Commissioner Joan Fox
Commissioner Richard Denicore
Commissioner Dale Burrington
Commissioner George Palladino
Commissioner Lucille Wiggins

Voting Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Tracy Allen
Council Member Larry Malone

MOTION CARRIED

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2013

Commissioner Burrington nominated David Hutchison as Chair for the year 2013.

Chair Hutchison asked if there were any other nominations.

BY ACCLAMATION, the board re-elected Chair David Hutchison as Chair of the board for the year 2013.

PETITIONERS

The Chair indicated there were no petitioners other than Mr. Jonathan Gell who was an observer.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair indicated there was no correspondence.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Creek Program – Commissioner Allen was not present to update the board.

Tree Program – Chair Hutchison stated that he didn't have anything to report from the last meeting.

Commissioner Denicore felt that the board needed to regain control of the tree program. He said there were some problems planting trees on private property, but he appreciated all the work Chair Hutchison has done over the years with the tree program.

Chair Hutchison agreed with Commissioner Denicore that the board needed to regain control.

The board discussed the various species of trees they would like to see planted this spring.

Commissioner Denicore felt that the board needed feedback as to what trees have been cut down so that the board can adjust their inventory. He felt a process to receive feedback needed to be established.

Chair Hutchison felt that Brian Fawcett should be invited to meet with the board to discuss with him the species of trees that the board would like planted this year.

Chair Hutchison felt that it might also be helpful if the board invited Gino Huggins to meet with the board.

Watershed Protection District – Chair Hutchison stated that he reported to the board at the last meeting that the Town board of the Town of Oneonta decided that it didn't want the watershed protection district. He felt that other avenues of approach might be better.

Chair Hutchison stated that the new Supervisor of the Town of Milford, which only has a very small portion of the watershed, was very supportive of the watershed protection district. He stated that the County Planning Department suggested that the other two towns (Town of Laurens and Town of Oneonta) be contacted.

Chair Hutchison suggested that he and Commissioner Denicore meet with Mayor Miller to discuss the watershed protection district issue and where the City stands.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

Chair Hutchison stated that he has nothing about the energy audits and energy efficient programs. He reported that NYSERTA is offering energy audits free.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Hutchison read the following response he received from Mayor Miller regarding the noise ordinance:

"I do not share your passion on this. I see it as a problem that doesn't exist in a measurable way today. I would see this as an issue to be dealt with on a case by case basis through the Planning Commission and the SEQR process as applicable."

The board agreed that they can go no further with this. Commissioner Burrington stated that the board cannot make any decision, it can only advise. He felt the board's business was done since the ones with the authority have decided to table this.

Commissioner Fox reported on the training workshops available for environmental conservation grants. She stated that the Mayor indicated that someone from the City was already working on this.

Commissioner Burrington informed the board that there is a greenway endowment, so there is money available to do work on the Susquehanna Greenway. He felt that if the Environmental board sat back, things would happen.

Chair Hutchison encouraged Commissioner Fox to check into the grants that are available.

Commissioner Fox stated that she would look into this and report back to the board.

Commissioner Palladino felt that the board was not prepared to discuss the following enduring issues of the recent past. He felt they should be removed from the agenda until the board was prepared to discuss them.

Commissioner Palladino felt that the watershed protection district should be put under enduring issues.

DURING ISSUES OF THE RECENT PAST:
• Southside Corridor and Lettis Highway shrubs
• Industrial Noise
• Delaware Recycling Program – Field trip
• Rose Avenue area Brownfield Study
• Gas Drilling in City and potential amassing and transport of drill pipes
• Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation
• Treelawns and curbs for new road construction
• Inquiries about disposal of green waste and kitchen waste into mulch compost from SUCO, Hartwick, Fox, etc
• Contract for solar electric leases

The board decided not to meet in February. Chair Hutchison stated that the board will meet again on March 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Hutchison adjourned the regular meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

JAMES R. KOURY, City Clerk

JRK/bsm

DRAFT