

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD PG. 1**

**PRESENT:** Chair David Hutchison  
Commissioner Joan Fox  
Commissioner Richard Denicore  
Commissioner Dale Burrington  
Commissioner Lucille Wiggin

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Tracy Allen  
Commissioner George Palladino  
Council Member Larry Malone

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Without benefit of a motion, the board approved the minutes of the regular meeting held May 9, 2012.

**PETITIONERS (limited to comment)**

Chair Hutchison recognized Nicole Daniels, a senior at Hartwick College who was interested in brownfields and would like to make arrangements to interview some of the board members at a later time regarding brownfields. He said Ms. Daniels and he had spoken about brownfields and he suggested she contact Erik Miller, former council member and board liaison who was very informed about brownfields and in his employment was currently working on a 5-county study of brownfields.

Ms. Daniels stated her focus would be environmental policy at the local level, not just on brownfields, and would focus specifically on the Neahwa Park site. She said this would be for her thesis in political science. She said she was also studying chemistry. She said he was looking for people to interview and would be interviewing Council Members. She said it would be helpful if board members would volunteer to be interviewed.

Chair Hutchison volunteered Commissioner Burrington who for years had driven the horse to get the manufactured gas plant remediation in Neahwa Park.

Commissioner Burrington stated the remediation project was basically finished and had been for a few years. He said currently there was monitoring of wells supposedly because he was on an email distribution list for notification of readings of monitored wells and had not received any for months. He said he contacted the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and was told there was nothing further to report. He said he thinks he has run out of options and was just waiting to see if anything pops up. He said the last readings he received had indicated that there were only a couple wells showing suspicious levels of some of the contaminants. He said he was not worried about that compared to what the level of contaminants were before the remediation project and that the problem was taken care of. He said there were some other sites that have been remediated.

Commissioner Burrington stated he would agree to make arrangements with Ms. Daniels for an interview and would share information that he had on the project with her.

The board held a brief discussion on the matter.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Hutchison stated that there was a county hazardous waste drop-off day scheduled for Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> by appointment. He said he had an appointment to bring some hazardous waste and offered to take that of the board members if they had any.

Chair Hutchison stated that there was an informational meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on the Constitution Pipeline. He said that was in regard to the proposed line to bring gas from Pennsylvania to the east of Oneonta to hook into another line, possibly along I-88.

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD PG. 2**

**(Correspondence)** continued

Chair Hutchison stated other correspondence received was available for the board's review.

Chair Hutchison welcomed new Commissioner Joan Fox. He asked Commissioner Fox to speak briefly about her environmental background.

Commissioner Fox stated she has lived in Oneonta for 22 years and before that lived in the Philadelphia area. She said she had a Masters degree in city and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania and previously had worked at an environmental planning firm. She said she was currently in real estate and had been for 25 years.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

Creek Program [Allen-spring –odd years only]

Tree Program [Hutchison]

Watershed Protection District [Hutchison]

Sustainability Working Group [formerly Rorick]

**Creek Program [Allen-spring –odd years only]**

Chair Hutchison stated Commissioner Allen would report on that when it is time. He said that was an ongoing study of the creeks that Commissioner Allen's students were doing and they were doing a very good job.

**Tree Program [Hutchison]**

Chair Hutchison briefly explained the program to date regarding the planting of trees on city property and more recently on private property. He asked the board members to let him know of any possible tree planting sites.

Chair Hutchison stated that the board had been encouraging the city to plant trees in the Dietz Street Parking Lot and Commissioner Palladino really took the bull by the horns and now it was happening. He said in combination of a separate fund and the money from the harvesting of city trees the ugly railing on Dietz Street was going to be removed, the dangling wires taken down and have underground wires, 20 trees would be planted with other small plantings here and there in the lot and the lot reconstructed. He said he understood this would all be completed very soon.

The board held a brief discussion on the matter.

**Watershed Protection District [Hutchison]**

Chair Hutchison stated that 90 percent of the Watershed Protection District was done largely in part by the efforts of Town Code Enforcement Officer Paul Neske and still had to go to a public hearing. He said he was hoping that at the October Town Board meeting they would approve it to go to a public hearing and at the same time it would go to the county for review. He said the 13-page document has been on the Town's website for 6 months and he expressed concern about the lack of interest of it being read and reviewed.

**Sustainability Working Group [formerly Rorick]**

Chair Hutchison briefly explained how and why this group was started and its progress. He said the group had produced a report entitled Oneonta 2030 about what the goals would be going on in a sustainable fashion; transportation, energy, food and community environment and stewardship. He said Mayor Miller asked how this group could be melded in with the Environmental Board and technically the group reports to the board. He said unfortunately the group has membership problems and did not meet often.

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD PG. 3**

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Chair Hutchison stated there was no report of special committees.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS**

*Discussion with churches about energy audits and energy efficient programs*

Chair Hutchison spoke briefly about the matter saying it came to the board from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). He said the funding for NYSERDA comes from electric bills not state funding. He said NYSERDA was trying to encourage home audits. He said the audits were done for free except for those with incomes of about \$250,000 may pay a portion. He said thought the board may want to take seriously trying to encourage people in the city including churches to give serious thought to getting a house audit. He said it was the biggest saver of energy ever.

The board held a brief discussion on the matter.

Commissioner Wiggins suggested that churches put in their bulletins about people having an energy audit.

Commissioner Fox suggested involving the Board of Realtors because of they were involved with so many homeowners they could hand out the information easily on these audits.

Chair Hutchison stated this matter would stay on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Hutchison stated that the Mayor asked him to be involved in this cleaner, greener communities plan initiated by Governor Cuomo's Mohawk Valley Regional Sustainability Plan, which Oneonta was a part of. He said the city has really done a lot with Johnson Controls and having every city building audited for energy and energy improvement work done.

<b>ENDURING ISSUES OF THE RECENT PAST:</b>
• Southside Corridor
• Industrial Noise
• Delaware Recycling Program
• Rose Avenue area Brownfield Study
• Gas Drilling in City
• Manufacturing Gas Plant Remediation
• Treelawns and curbs
• Inquiries about disposal of green waste and kitchen waste into mulch compost from SUCO, Hartwick, Fox, etc
• Contract for solar electric leases

Chair Hutchison spoke briefly on the enduring issues listed above.

The board held a brief discussion on some of the issues.

Chair Hutchison stated that the next regular board meeting would be Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Hutchison adjourned the regular meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

---

JAMES R. KOURY, City Clerk

JRK/pab