

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
17 February 2021
Via Zoom

The Environmental Board met on 17 February 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Sue Adams, Bianca Passo, Peggy Berbesque, and John Morris.

At the last Town Council meeting, an ordinance was passed stating that term limits of 3 years for membership in town committees and boards, with a 1 year hiatus before rejoining. John asked if this applied from this year, or current term expiration, or can be grandfathered. Susan will look into it. John's term expires 1 January 2022.

Susan has scheduled Zoom calls through July. If we wish to meet in person, perhaps a meeting could be held in the firehouse to maintain more distance.

The ODEAB liaison may shift to Karl Krismanic instead of Scott Lehmann. Scott has duties with the beach recovery that keep him busy. The State has sent a letter to the town about public access to the beach. Sue can get Scott a tutorial on the public trust doctrine, which might help.

Setting goals for the year: Sue would like to see a lighting ordinance; clearing up the MS4 exception is a goal; and reviewing the Cleveland Cliffs permit, which is up in June.

Monitoring industries was first addressed by talking about air monitoring. The web page was explained about local monitoring for ozone and PM_{2.5}. The closest monitor is at the water filtration plant. Regarding industrial emissions, US Steel Midwest has contacted Eric Kurtz under the National Response System when a permit violation has been detected. Arcelor Mittal did not notify expeditiously when the 2019 ammonia and cyanide spill occurred. Each industry should be monitored by a member. John is monitoring Arcelor/Cleveland Cliffs; Vicky is

monitoring US Steel Midwest; Jim will check on Amrox to see if they are still there, or have changed their name; Bianca will monitor Precoat. Vicky will put together a tutorial with step-by-step screen shots on using the virtual file cabinet for the rest of the board. With regard to air, the IDEM link for the data from the air monitors mentioned above will be distributed.

The permit renewal for Arcelor Mittal/Cleveland Cliffs is up in June. John is watching for the new permit, but comment period is usually 30 days. Peggy asked where public notice is given, and Susan said there is a new law changing the practice of placing notice in the newspaper. No one is sure what will replace it.

There is no new information on US Steel Midwest.

Jim has not had any contact with the Septic System Coordination Workgroup.

Beach monitoring should be run the same as last year.

For the Lighting Task Force, Sue mentioned that at the Town Council meeting, Karl Krismanic asked about the lighting on US 12. It is apparently complying with Dark Skies protocol. Sue said that her contact at NIPSCO is now Natalie Conlon, replacing Rick Kalinsky. Sue says she is more agreeable to our concerns. Sue again mentioned the LED that has been installed on Cedar Trail up the hill from Shore Drive. Going uphill, it is difficult to look at, and may be a 4000K. Please look to confirm this, if you are out at night. The light at Hillcrest and Diana appears to be correct.

We will have to brainstorm about the MS4 exemption. No one had time to review the regulation.

Bianca emailed a link to the recording of the NPDES training from IDEM.

There is nothing new on recycling. Jim receives updates on new information, and will share them with us.

Nothing new on Long Lake Marsh.

Susan said that the town needs to retire a truck and purchase a new one. She showed information on a program for a grant if a reduced emissions Diesel engine truck is chosen, which could offset some of the cost.

Susan informed John that Jim Slawinski is the new web master for the town.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 20 January 2021. Sue seconded. The motion carried.

John moved to adjourn, and Sue seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.