

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Advisory Board**  
**20 January 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

The Environmental Board met on 20 January 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Sue Adams, Frank Lani, Bianca Passo, Peggy Berbesque, and John Morris. The new members were introduced, and gave their interests and backgrounds. Scott Lehmann is still our liaison from the Town Council, but he may not always attend, unless we request him to.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 18 November 2020. Vicky seconded. The motion carried.

Monitoring industries was first addressed by talking about air monitoring. The Miller neighborhood is doing some monitoring, but the difficulty of monitoring was explained. Odors are not regulated, but many of the chemicals that cause them are. Monitoring for that requires a person to maintain and calibrate the monitor, as well of good recordkeeping about wind direction and weather. There is a monitor for ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> near the water filtration plant operated by IDEM, and it may also monitor volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Many complaints come from the east side of town. There is a complaint form online for IDEM, but the link on our web page is not correct. There is also the problem that IDEM staff are no longer local, and an odor often dissipates before the staff would arrive. If multiple complaints arrive at IDEM, it is more likely that may trigger an inspection. It was suggested that a copy of the form be transmitted to ODEAB. The brochure we have may need updating.

The latest inspection report for Arcelor Mittal for November appeared to show negligence or incompetence. It is not clear if Cleveland Cliffs, the new owners, will rectify these issues. Also, we must be alert for the new permit, which will be necessary given the change in ownership. John said he will monitor online for the

permit. Susan said there is nothing new on the Environmental Law and Policy Center lawsuit.

Regarding US Steel Midwest, John mentioned the a search on the virtual file cabinet (VFC) only showed a report for a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) that had been prepared by a contractor due to a failure of whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing. Vicky said she will monitor the VFC for US Steel.

The standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Street Department have been completed and approved by the town council. Susan will forward them to the new members, so they know what they involve.

The closure plan for the Indiana American Water residual pond was approved by IDEM. We reviewed the proposal and our comments were incorporated in the final document.

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

There was nothing on beach monitoring, except that the data for the past summer was submitted to IDEM. Susan thanked Vicky for proofreading the data.

For the Lighting Task Force, Sue again mentioned that an LED 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. Sue has tried to contact Rick Kalinsky of NIPSCO, but he has not responded. Also, we should again look at the light at Hillcrest and Diana to see if that brightness is correct. It should be 3000K. Sue again mentioned divvying up the town to check for LED installations to see if the correct lights are being installed, and polling the residents to see if all lights are necessary. The schedule and type of LEDs may have changed, as Beverly Shores just got changed, and the residents are upset.

The regulation for the MS4 exemption may have changed last year. The town may need a permit, so Susan will talk with Doug Cannon about discussing this with the town attorney before contacting the State.

There is nothing new on recycling.

Nothing new on Long Lake Marsh, except that now that the cattails are gone, people can ice skate.

Susan will advise when the next meeting will be, as some other committees have pinched some of our time. Frank asked for some more orientation, and Susan will be doing more training on using the VFC.

John moved to adjourn, and Sue seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.