

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
18 November 2020
Via Zoom

The Environmental Board met on 18 November 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Sue Adams, Kristine Sandrick, and John Morris.

Kristine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 21 October 2020. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Several replacements for Chelsea Overholt were discussed. In addition, Kristine will be leaving the ODEAB at the end of the year, so two openings are available. Possible recruits included Peggy Berbesque, Patti Babcoke, Bianca Passo, and Frank Lani. Susan has interviewed them, but only Bianca and Frank have submitted volunteer applications to the town. Frank has an interest in invasive species. Patti has an interest in the Residential Lighting Task Force. Peggy and Bianca are more generalists. Having more candidates raised the possible option of having adjunct members of the board. Susan will investigate the town ordinances to see if that is allowed. It was decided to collect the application forms from all four and decide by email exchange before the next town council meeting.

Susan's letter prepared for the Town Council about Arcelor Mittal was sent by Mike Webber to Bruno Pigott of IDEM. Mr. Pigott responded, thanking the town for its concern and indicated an enforcement action was being initiated. The nature of this enforcement action was not specified. Separately, the Environmental Law and Policy Center planned to depose Susan in the next couple of weeks. Their action against Arcelor Mittal is still in the discovery phase.

Regarding US Steel Midwest, Eric Kurtz did receive notice today of an exceedance from that mill for copper. He was then able to forward this notice to Susan. The

actual spill was not significant to human health, but the important thing is that the system for notification worked.

Regarding the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Town, Kristine has Mark Juszczak's comments, and is ready to finalize them. The SOPs referenced leaves, but not wood chips and green brush. She did not make Jim's suggested changes, and is making the documents without specific names, rather titles, and no specific URLs, as those may change. This is to render the SOP more durable. Final SOPs will be exchanged by email in hopes of having them available for the December town council meeting.

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

There was no meeting of the beach monitoring managers. They need to find out if there is funding for the next year. Susan asked for someone to proofread the next year's funding application, and Vicky volunteered. Karen Berrier needs to submit monthly invoices along with her time sheets. This is to avoid errors in adding up the hours at the office.

For the Lighting Task Force, 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. This was mentioned last month, but no one checked on it. Sue will contact her task force and divvy up the town among the members to check for LED installations to see if the correct lights are being installed. Sue will then get in contact with Rick Kalinsky of NIPSCO, as she thinks the schedule has changed.

There is nothing new for the MS4 exemption.

Regarding recycling, John had distributed a story from the Wall Street Journal about mixed paper now being worthwhile to recycle. Kristine will try to contact Jim Metros of Republic to see what if the assertions in the article apply to Republic's operation.

In Long Lake Marsh, the woody invasives need to be culled, but all the others were taken care of. Purple Loosestrife was snipped, and phragmites sprayed.

The next meeting will be held in January.

Kristine moved to adjourn, and Vicky seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.