

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
18 August 2021
Via Zoom

The Environmental Board met on 18 August 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Bianca Passo, Sue Adams, Frank Lani, and John Morris. Scott Kingan was a guest.

Bianca moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 16 June 2021. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

The Compliance Plan for the Agreed Order for US Steel Midwest was discussed, and it appears to be thorough and the schedule for completion is acceptable, at 180 days.

Review of the Cleveland Cliffs (ArcelorMittal) NPDES permit has been started, with a task force consisting of Susan, Jim, Vicky, Bianca, and John. Their first meeting was yesterday, 17 August 2021. They plan to have comments ready for the public meeting on 1 September. Susan will check with Save the Dunes, which is hiring a professional reviewer, to see their comments. Contact with the new management gives promise that they have a firmer commitment to the environment.

There have been violations with the water works, particularly with public notice. Scott Kingan explained the reorganization at the water board and the street department. Tom Cleland is the contact person for now, with Mark Juszczak taking over. There was a question if the town has a certified manager for the water system at present. Scott will let us know.

Frank had attended the Septic System Coordination Workgroup meeting on 27 May 2021, but no one attended the most recent one. Jim will attend in the future.

Susan said that beach monitoring has been proceeding well. She asked about a replacement for Karen Berrier, but it is not needed yet.

The Lighting Task Force has had contact with Beverly Shores, where the lights have been replaced with 3000K LEDs. They are unhappy because the flat light fixtures are not shielded, so when the light is up a hill, it is too bright. The town is pressing NIPSCO for 2200K LEDs, and shielding to keep dark skies. Sue will talk to NIPSCO, asking for shielding. Our changeover is scheduled for next year. Susan suggested having Doug Cannon send a letter to NIPSCO.

Scott mentioned that the new town website should be ready in a couple of weeks. Frank is the ODEAB contact for what to keep and what to change on our portion of the website.

Peggy had emailed a list from Republic about what was acceptable for recycling. Both Frank and Jim had different stories about what will actually be acceptable at the Homewood facility. They will send links to the group so that we can put together a new data sheet to notify the residents. We then need to determine how to disseminate that information.

There is nothing with the MS4 exemption.

Nothing new on Long Lake Marsh. Susan will be attacking phragmites, cattails and purple loosestrife some weekend soon.

Susan and Frank attended a coordinating committee with the Beautification and HCPS Committees with a partial aim of breaking up impervious surfaces in the area near the town entrance to allow more vegetation.

Jim moved to adjourn, and Sue seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.