

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

20 April 2016

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 20 April 2016 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were, Kristine Sandrick, John Morris, Jim Biancotti, and Bob Cattani. Doug Cannon sat in. Susan MiHalo was present for the first ten minutes.

Bob moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 16 March 2016. Kristine seconded. The motion carried.

Since any Community Fund Grant would need to be approved at the June meeting of the town council, such funds would not be available for the Memorial Day picnic. Any handouts we would wish to provide at a table to promote recycling should be readily available, possibly for free. Jim can provide some free flyers from the County. He also will contact a person at the Earth Day event last weekend for some of their materials. One flyer, a copy of which is on our website, could be improved, and Doug offered to do some Photoshop on it. We can call attention to an Earth Day insert in the *Times* which showed the consequences of having plastic bags in the recycling stream. There appeared to be some discrepancy between that insert and what Doug was told by Homewood when he spoke to them. He will try to clear that up. Kristine will rig a sign for the table. She and John will staff it.

That segued into a discussion of having a plastic bag collection by Town Hall, perhaps where the one for cell phones was removed. It would need to be emptied on a regular basis, perhaps even daily, by one of us. The contents could be taken to one of the stores already collecting. Design of the container will require some thought, because the bags will not easily be compacted.

Regarding other items suggested for the Community Fund grant, the grocery bags are prepared in lots of 10,000, although Jim had contacts where we could get as few as 250. The quiz similar to Chicago's was not practical, as the preparer asks \$5000 for a public concern. Private orders are more.

Regarding the MS4 exemption, Jim was not available. There was nothing new.

The Septic System Coordination Work Group meeting last week was not attended, as all had commitments.

The beach contract is still awaiting the state. Polly Costanza will do all five days of sampling.

For the Dark Skies Initiative, Sue Adams informed us before the meeting that Jim Matthys and his staff had found that five of the poles may be not in service. She suggested that perhaps NIPSCO could be talked into using them as model lights, but we had discussed using the ones at the entrance as a demonstration project.

Nearby industries was a concern recently, with a brown cloud event this past weekend. It is best if a citizen's complaint is directed at IDEM rather than going through one of us, so it was agreed that we should have some notice about how to make a complaint at our table at the Memorial Day picnic.

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

Submitted by John Morris.