

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board

16 June 2021

Via Zoom

The Environmental Board met on 16 June 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Peggy Berbesque, Frank Lani, and John Morris.

Vicky moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 19 May 2021. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

The review of the NPDES permit for US Steel Midwest has been completed, and Doug Cannon has already sent our comments to IDEM. Examining the comments made by an engineering firm contracted to the National Parks Conservation Association, Susan was pleased that many of our comments mirrored ones in that review. Since the consent decree is not yet final, Susan said that, if it changes, the permit should be modified to reflect such.

There is still nothing on the renewal of the Cleveland Cliffs (ArcelorMittal) permit.

Frank raised the issue of black particles he found in his yard. When tested, he was told they were magnetic. After emailing other members of the board, Vicky supplied him with articles about particulate emissions and other possible deposits from steel mills. Most of the things that are detrimental to health, such as lead and arsenic, are not magnetic. He could have the particles analyzed, but at his own expense. He was advised to check the air permits of the nearby mills to see what is allowed for the facilities. Susan mentioned that Porter County is probably not in attainment for PM_{2.5}.

Frank attended the Septic System Coordination Workgroup meeting on 27 May 2021. He outlined the activities that the workgroup is trying to do. The object is to locate all septic systems in the costal watershed in the three counties

bordering Lake Michigan. The systems should be inspected, if not on a basis of a set number of years, at least on sale of the property. Some systems, such as Long Beach, are planning a conversion to sewers. Frank said at the meeting that Ogden Dunes had nothing to report.

Susan said that beach monitoring has been proceeding well, with only a couple of instances of high readings, but no closures.

Sue is away, so there is nothing on the Lighting Task Force.

Peggy investigated how Republic is handling the town's recycling. She noted that when one talks to different people in that organization, one gets different answers to questions. She said that the flyer prepared by Doug Cannon years ago was mostly still valid. She would like to have the electronic copy to modify it. She proposed having a drop box by Town Hall for unneeded prescription drugs, much like the one for batteries, but John suggested that there may be regulations regarding who can collect them. Better would be to point people to the collection bins at pharmacies, that exist.

There is nothing with the MS4 exemption.

Nothing new on Long Lake Marsh. Grasses and sedges appear to be growing in the mud flat.

Susan said that an email about coordinating with the Beautification Committee has not been answered.

Regarding skipping the July meeting, Frank moved and Vicky seconded. The motion passed.

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

Submitted by John Morris.