

## **Minutes**

### **Environmental Advisory Board**

**19 August 2015**

#### **Ogden Dunes Town Hall**

The Environmental Board met on 19 August 2015 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, John Morris, Susan Adams, Jim Biancotti, Bob Cattani, Kristine Sandrick, and Paul Panther.

Bob moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 8 July 2015, and Kristine seconded. The motion carried.

Sue announced that the Adopt-a-Beach cleanup will be in September, with a training session put on by the Alliance for the Great Lakes on 3 Sept at 5:30 pm at the NPS office on Mineral Springs Road. Sue cannot attend, so asked for volunteers. Kristine and Jim will be there. Pointers for how to use the information gathered in the survey forms include noting the number of straws and cup lids increased on our beach after the Portage Lakefront Site opened. A request was made for vendors to not use those at that site. Kristine said she would notify residents through Facebook, asking Jenny Brown to place a notice on the web site, and posting a flyer at the mailbox. Sue also needs help with the banner. One or two weeks ahead was recommended.

There is no update on the MS4 exemption. Jim needs help to scan the old document and save it in a Word file so it can be updated easily. Bob and Sue could help with that.

Jim just attended the meeting of the Septic System Coordination Work Group. Septic Smart Week is 21-25 September. He read a coastal community resolution that was proposed for a town to declare that week to be Septic Smart Week. DNR will make available 7000 brochures to the towns in the region. The banner will go up as soon as the beach cleanup one comes down, but notice needs to go on the TV channel. Jenny Brown can do email blast. Education is needed to tell residents to pump their system, and that there is no need to add bacteria. Also, the state is trying to add septic education to realtors' training. LaPorte County is already requiring inspection on sale.

Recycling issues raised the problem of education about plastic bags in recycling bins. Sue did make a statement at the last Town Council meeting about that.

In Long Lake Marsh, the spaying for invasives is proceeding. A new invasive noted was black swallow wort, where a stand has been spotted near the NIPSCO property. It spreads very aggressively.

Beach testing is proceeding. Sue received a call from a resident about pollution on the beach, but when she investigated, saw nothing. As it turned out, some dumping had been reported elsewhere, but the resolution is that the police should be called, and then IDEM.

Susan has contacted the Bells of Beverly Shores. She learned how they organized their effort. She tried inventorying the lights in our town and did not find all on the NIPSCO invoice. Shew found about ¾ of them. Also, the model light at the Historical Society is painted to avoid broadcasting light to the side, but the paint is coming off. While this may be a way to save money, it will require maintenance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.