

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

12 March 2014

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 12 March 2014 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, John Morris, Sharon Guy, Judy Mollway, and Paul Panther.

Judy moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 12 February 2014, and Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Jim has looked at the MS4 exemption. According to the regulations, even roadways are considered conveyances of stormwater. There was discussion of the drains and how they are characterized in the regs, but one thing that has been added since the previous submission is the pump draining the intersection of Diana Ct and Diana Rd into Long Lake Marsh. John has given Jim the name of Randy Braun at IDEM as a contact for assistance.

Sharon and Jim attended the 28 February 2014 meeting of the Septic System Coordination Work Group held at the NIRPC offices. A speaker was Michael Novac of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. Sharon felt that nearly all participants were professionals with wastewater issues, but our delegation was encouraged to keep coming to the meetings. We may be used as a pilot group. She gave several web resources which could be added as links on the Ogden Dunes web site, among these, iowpa.org, from the Indiana Onsite Waste Water Professionals Association. When asked about mapping, maps are available of sewer systems statewide, so areas in between are assumed to be on septic. As far as Septic Awareness Week is concerned, the board decided to piggyback on the EPA one in September. Sharon also proposed having the ODHA give new residents information pointing to septic information on the web site. Paul was amenable to an ordinance making an inspection of the septic system a condition of sale. Allen County has some model ordinances. Allen County residents with septic need a permit from the county, renewable every 5 years.

Judy is set for the Lions Club presentation by the representatives from Republic Services on 24 March. We also learned that Jim is training to become a Master Recycler.

Long Lake Marsh will need work after the snow melts.

The Beach Testing Grant is in place, but Sue needs to prepare the contracts for Polly Costanza and Karen Berrier.

Because Bob Cattani was not present, no discussion of Dark Skies Initiative took place, but the Beverly Shores couple will be invited to a future meeting.

Concerning the oil trains which pass our town regularly, Bill Gregory has written to the NTSB in favor of actions they are considering to improve safety for the tank cars trains of Bakken crude, which has caused incidents in a number of derailments recently in the news. Regarding evacuation, Paul indicated that Boat Club Road should become an escape route, and has had good response from Portage, US Steel, PreCoat and other parties, but is waiting to see what the new director of the National Lakeshore is amenable to. The same concerns any west exit. The main problem remains getting information to residents.

Jim moved to adjourn, Judy seconded, and the motion was approved at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.