

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

9 October 2013

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 9 October 2013 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, Sharon Guy, John Morris, Bob Cattani, Judy Mollway, Jim Biancotti, and Paul Panther.

Judy moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 11 September 2013, and Sharon seconded. The motion carried.

The MS4 waiver application needs to get underway. Recently, Reggie Korthals of the Indianapolis IDEM office paid a visit to Jim Matthys concerning this. Sharon will search old documents in storage for the application from 2002 or 2003. The board needs to find out how many residents still have well water for drinking water supply. Ten years ago the number was 12. Reggie will be returning to visit in April or May. Jim Biancotti will take the lead in this, and John Morris will serve as backup. This will be a major concern of the board for the next few months. Very few permits are expected to come up for review.

Sharon reported on the 16 September 2013 Septic System Coordination Work Group meeting the she, Jim, and Paul attended. If a septic system is broken and not repaired, the town can call the Public Health Department for action. She tried to access the NOAA Section 319 web site and was unable to do so. Education was an important element of septic system maintenance, and our awareness week was presented as a first attempt in this. Septic systems are not covered by homeowners insurance.

Judy reported on recycling education, saying she had finally contacted Jim Mitros of Republic Services. He will give a presentation to the Lions in the near future, including a video of the sorting line in Homewood, Illinois. He is also available to present to children, so Judy will contact Sandpipers preschool to see when they are discussing recycling in their lessons. The grant funds she obtained for the summer program that had no attendees are still available until June, so they can be used for advertising of this program.

Sue made contact with Eric Kurtz concerning a controlled burn for Long Lake Marsh, and he would like to coordinate such a burn with the National Lakeshore. The earliest date would be 23 October. Prior to this Sue would like volunteers to help clear growth around trees and button bush to protect them from a burn.

Sue will be presenting a 15 minute talk about invasive plants in conjunction with the Beautification Committee talk about deer resistant plants on 15 October 2013 at the Firehouse.

The beach testing grant materials just came out. The application for funds is due 13 December 2013. The plan is to do the same as last summer, with the first collection date of 25 May 2014, and the final 7 September 2014. This must be discussed at the November meeting of the board, because this must be approved by the Town Council at the December meeting to meet the deadline.

Sue discussed the MOU for the Indiana Coastal Cooperative Weed Management Area. It was agreed that joining the MOU was a good idea.

John moved to adjourn, Bob seconded, and the motion was approved at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.