

## Minutes

### Environmental Advisory Board

10 December 2014

### Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 10 December 2014 at 5:35 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, John Morris, Bob Cattani, Sharon Guy, Roger Rhodes, and Paul Panther.

Sharon moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 12 November 2014, and Bob seconded. The motion carried.

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to generating the comments for the high-speed rail proposal, which are due by 19 December 2014. The areas of concern as addressed in the document are:

#### Impacts on Transportation (if crossing were closed)

- Potential loss of access to Ogden Dunes

- Loss of access to South Shore Railroad

- Loss of South Shore station (move farther east)

- Increased time for access into and out of town

- Town does not own land for new access

- Current alternate access route is dangerous

- Trucks can block current bridge on alternate

- Approximately 1800 vehicles/day traverse current crossing

- More potential for disasters

- During construction, access would be closed

#### Impact on Land Use

- Impacts on NIPSCO easement behind Deer Trail and Diana Court

- Will homeowners on Deer Trail have property affected?

- Will Ogden Dunes Church be impacted?

- Town Hall may need to be moved

- Natural areas will be converted from parkland to railroad use

#### Socioeconomic Resources

- School busses will be affected as they must traverse truck route through steel mill area

- Property values will be affected

#### Community Character

- Drive in and out of town must be through steel mill if crossing is closed

- Noise and vibration for many residents will become very difficult

#### Environmental Justice

- Elderly affected – Median age of residents is 55

#### Public Health

- Structural damage from additional vibration is possible

- No such thing as a quiet zone – No mitigation for noise

#### Public Safety

Longer access would increase response times for police, fire and ambulance  
Pedestrians walk to South Shore station  
Police calls for backup to and from other departments would be hindered in response, as trucks sometimes block bridge  
Same problem for emergency vehicles

#### Air Quality

Immediate vicinity of town will be lower quality, even if traffic on I-94 is reduced, because Diesel locomotives will be closer than the highway

#### Cultural Impacts

None

#### Impacts on Natural Habitat and Wildlife

The lupine growing in the area will be reduced, which will affect the Karner Blue Butterfly

#### Indirect and Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effect surpasses the expectations of the proposal in all the reduction in quality of life for the residents of Ogden Dunes

#### Construction Impacts

See above m- alternative route into town is dangerous

#### In other business:

Jim was not present for any update on the MS4 exemption.

The recycling report through October showed a 35% average rate

The beach testing grant has been submitted.

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

Submitted by John Morris.