

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Advisory Board**  
**20 February 2019**  
**Ogden Dunes Town Hall**

The Environmental Board met on 20 February 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Ogden Dunes Town Hall. Attendees were, Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Sue Adams, Kristine Sandrick, Chelsea Overholt, and John Morris.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 16 January 2019. Sue seconded. The motion carried.

There has been no progress on the consent decree for the US Steel Midwest plant to our knowledge. There was some discussion about the recent US Supreme Court decision about public trust and access to the beach. Senator Karen Tallian has legislation proposed to reinforce this, but there are some legislators away from Lake Michigan who have more of a land rights proposal.

Planning was made for the sustainability workshops for the residents that were laid out at the January meeting. It was found that several of the dates proposed had conflicts either for the hall, the time or both. Instead of the Saturday dates, Sundays from 3:30 to 5 were proposed. The March meeting was suggested for the 24th. Kristine will check with Dick Meister on room availability. Gardening and native plantings would be the topic. Susan will address invasive species. Victoria Wittig can address native gardening. Jim sent an email to Dustin Cantrell from community gardens this morning, but hasn't received a reply. Volunteering for the Beautification Committee will be talked about by Barbara Schultz. Chelsea suggested we bring snacks to increase participation. A pollinator discussion was proposed, as was planting seeds as an activity for kids. John will contribute some milkweed seeds, and Kristine has some others. Save egg cartons for the activity. Paper pots can be made from newspaper.

For April, the 28<sup>th</sup> was proposed, with recycling the topic, avoiding Easter weekend. Jim will contact Donna Stuckert or Therese Haller from the county solid waste district to see if they could talk on recycling. Composting should be addressed as a waste reduction method. There was discussion of vermiculture, but there was uncertainty whether the public would be interested. Susan will post a query on the town Facebook page to gauge interest. Chelsea will discuss keeping the beach clean, giving data for recent cleanups. She will also talk about reducing the amount of plastic in our lives. She will also demonstrate how to make a reusable shopping bag from an old T-shirt.

September 29<sup>th</sup> was proposed for residential lighting and septic awareness. Jim will try to get someone from the Septic System Coordination Workgroup to speak. Energy use and the carbon footprint will be discussed. Sue will present the ideas generated by the Lighting Task Force, highlighting the effects of bad lighting on both nature and humans.

There is nothing new on the MS4 exemption.

There is a Septic System Coordination Workgroup meeting tomorrow, but Jim is unable to attend.

Susan said the 23 February scheduled cleanup of Long Lake Marsh is out because it will rain all day. She will contact us with a new suggested date. Controlling the geese was discussed, with stakes and string or light rope proposed to circumscribe the marsh. John will contact Chuck Litzkow to see if he approves of the plan. We will ask to see if any residents will donate the supplies.

Kristine has found nothing on the closure plan for the Indiana American Water backflush lagoon.

To replace Doug Cannon, Kristine suggested Vickie Albertion. She has not contacted her but it was agreed she should.

Kristine moved to adjourn and Sue seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.