

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
30 October 2018
Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 30 October 2018 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.

Kristine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 19 September 2018. Sue seconded. The motion carried.

An addition to the agenda was made for Kristine's suggestion of a children's native plantings garden. It was added to the end of the meeting.

Planning started about a sustainability workshop for the residents. It was felt that the residents needed to be prepared for a new reality with recycling, with gardening and native plantings, with keeping the beach clean, and reducing energy use. After some discussion, the decision was made to plan for a series of workshops. In March, gardening, native plants and invasive species, as well as fertilizer and pesticide use can be presented. A Master Gardener or a Save the Dunes staffer could be persuaded to speak, and Susan could talk about invasive species. In April, before Earth Day, recycling, composting, and keeping the beach clean can be presented. In August or September, septic awareness, energy use (cars, appliances, and furnaces) can be addressed. Residential lighting can be covered in this session.

There is no news from the Lighting Task Force.

The organizations monitoring the USS Midwest plant consent decree have not gotten back to Susan, so we do not know what progress is made.

There is nothing new on the NICTD double tracking plan.

Chelsea gave the tally from last month's beach cleanup. By weight, less was collected this year, 28 lbs. versus 66 lbs. That was due to some very heavy items last year, including a boat battery. Styrofoam was by far the most common contaminant this year, 1700 pieces versus 400 last year. Smoking contributed less, with only 91 butts versus 266 last year. Chelsea has not seen a lot of foam being used when she visited the beach this summer, but people need to be made aware of how it scatters.

The IDEM payment for the beach grant arrived, and now Susan needs to start on next year's. She had a problem with one of Carson Costanza's time sheets, although the error was not in his favor. She is also getting a quote from Microbac. If they get a contract, they will need to sample the proper way.

Jim just today got the MS4 paperwork back from Chelsea. There still has been no contact from IDEM on the matter.

Jim attended the Septic System Coordination Workgroup meeting on 24 September 2018. They are still trying to get the mapping done for the three counties. They have 300,000 data points so far. *E. coli* is higher in the south part of the county. There was speculation about the soil type being a reason.

Recycling will be on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting, with a presentation from Republic. Our practice may need to change due to China not accepting some of our recycling. Jim said that the firehouse has a bin to accept smoke detectors outside the door. The County picks them up from there.

Susan wants to discuss with Eric Kurtz about a burn at Long Lake Marsh.

Kristine looked for the closure plan for the water plant backflush lagoon in the IDEM virtual file cabinet. She wants to contact Amy McClure in Solid Waste Permits about it. She will prepare a letter and Susan will approve it.

Kristine proposed a native garden playground for educational purposes near the soccer field where an area was cleared. She still needs to talk to the beatification committee and find out what other plans have been made by others for the area.

No November meeting was planned, unless the information given at the upcoming Town Council meeting indicates our recycling practices are going to change quickly.

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

Submitted by John Morris.