

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
17 January 2018
Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 17 January 2018 at 5:35 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were, Susan MiHalo, Kristine Sandrick, Sue Adams, Chelsea Overholt, and John Morris.

Kristine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 15 November 2017. Chelsea seconded. The motion carried.

Susan announced that the Surfrider Foundation did file their lawsuit this afternoon against the USS Midwest facility, through the University of Chicago Law School. The City of Chicago filed one separately. Susan said Natalie Johnson of Save the Dunes told her that the Town could join the suit or file separately or intervene. Susan said we should join so that if penalties accrue, the Town could benefit. We could ride on the U of C lawsuit, and would not cost. A motion to recommend the Town Council look into joining the suit was made by Kristine, and Sue seconded. The motion carried. Susan mentioned that we needed to talk to the City of Portage to see if they are acting. It would look better if we acted together. Susan will send to Scott Lehman and Tim Nelson, with a cc to Nate Ball. There was speculation whether Surfrider would want us joining. Natalie Johnson had also wanted to let us know that IDEM's response is an issue. There has been a delay in the consent decree.

Discussion turned to the flare at Arcelor Mittal. John said he would ask for explanation from his son-in-law, who works there. Also, someone could contact Rob Maciel, who may still be the environmental director there.

The NICTD double tracking plan still awaits funding and an Environmental Impact Statement, and we will need to watch for that.

Sue reported for the Lighting Task Force that the first reading of the residential lighting ordinance will be on 6 February 2018 at the General Code Review Committee. Sue will go with copies of other towns' ordinances. The proposed ordinance does not require retrofitting, but only concerns new lighting or changes. The Task Force is also concerned about the business area, but no response has been received from Indiana American Water. They say they have done what was asked, but clearly not. Chelsea was going to contact all the neighbors to see if a united front letter could be drafted. Regarding the LEDs to be used when our streetlights are changed in 2021, NIPSCO seems not to understand that we want the 3000 K LEDs, not the 4000

K ones. Sue said Carolyn Saxton had talked to Rick Calinski at NIPSCO, and will participate with Tim Nelson in a conference call tomorrow with Calinski concerning this issue. We would like an explanation of NIPSCO's reluctance to provide the 3000 K bulbs. (After the meeting, during the aforementioned call, NIPSCO agreed to use the 3000 K LEDs.)

Chelsea will run the beach cleanup this year, because she did such a good job. She would propose banning smoking on the beach, due to the enormous number of smoking materials found last year.

Susan would like to clean the dead phragmites on Long Lake Marsh by snow shoveling them off at the ice. No date was proposed.

Nothing new was mentioned for the 2018 beach grant, the MS4 exemption or the septic workghroup.

The news for recycling was that China is accepting less fiberboard, concerned about contamination. The concern is that recycling may become more expensive.

Save the Dunes is sponsoring an Environmental Advocacy 101 workshop on 27 January. Sue is going, and Susan will also attend if she can.

We are looking for the closure plan for the Indiana American Water lagoon. Doug Cannon is monitoring that.

John moved to adjourn and Kristine seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.