

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

17 June 2020

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 17 June 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Kristine Sandrick, Vicky Albritton, Sue Adams, and John Morris.

Kristine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 19 February 2020. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

The board needs to find a replacement for Chelsea Overholt. Jim contacted Paul Panther to see if he would be interested. Initially he demurred, but he may consider it. Tom Davenport was another name mentioned.

Beach water monitoring started on 5 June 2020 instead of Memorial Day weekend due to changes at the IDEM contracting office. After discussion it was agreed to ask to make up the lost days by adding time in September. Only two locations along the beach are being monitored, but seven days a week. Also, Karen Berrier is doing a sanitary survey, an EPA program which gives details about conditions which might contribute, such as bird species and other factors that might influence the results. Carson has been hired by the Gary MSD to do their beach collections.

Susan received a call from Arcelor Mittal attorneys for a deposition as a factual witness concerning the lawsuit about the spill with the fish kill for the process of discovery. We still don't know what IDEM and EPA are doing with this. The recent exceedance by US Steel Midwest of their permitted level of zinc had no human health concern. For both facilities, we should be monitoring the virtual file cabinet for any reports by keep track of any action that might be taken by the agencies.

The standard operating procedures (SOPs) for three Street Department operations, municipal recycling, compost, and used oil handling, had been reviewed. Kristine gave them marked up with the suggested changes to Doug Cannon to pass on Mark Juszcak. Jim will distribute the changes for our review, and requests our comments in two weeks. We will adopt them at the next meeting to be presented to the Town Council at the August meeting.

Regarding recycling, CDs and floppy disks are no longer recyclable. We have not seen a report about percentage recycled for some time. We will check with Mike Teeling if he knows the diversion rate.

Jim has had no contact with the Septic System Coordination Workgroup, but the organization has changed leadership, so they may not have met due to COVID. There was discussion about septic systems on Shore Drive, whether any had system on the lake side. Susan said she would and Mike Falk if there were any. Sue said she know of a few. We don't know if any have suffered damage due to erosion.

NIPSCO has replaced the streetlight at Hillcrest and Diana with a 3000 K LED. Kristine will post a request for comment on the Facebook page.

Jim has not progressed on the MS4 exemption. A discussion ensued about the water budget in several areas, particularly around Long Lake Marsh.

Given that there is very little beach, it was decided by consensus to forgo the beach cleanup this year. COVID is also a consideration. Vicky suggested using a sister beach. One possibility is West Beach, if NPS would give passes to the public to attend for that purpose. Jim has two boxes of supplies from Chelsea stored in the Lions storage.

The Next meeting will be 15 July 2020.

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

Submitted by John Morris.