

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

8 January 2014

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 8 January 2014 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, John Morris, Bob Cattani, Judy Mollway, Sharon Guy, Jim Biancotti, and Tom Clouser.

Sharon moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 13 November 2013, and Jim seconded. The motion carried.

The first order of business was to establish the meeting dates and times for the coming year. After polling the members, it was proposed to keep the present schedule of 5:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. John moved to accept this and Judy seconded it. The motion carried.

Sue asked for volunteers to take over the leadership of the board. Sharon asked for a job description to see what duties that would entail. Once that is provided, this can be discussed at the next meeting.

Jim and Judy attended the 14 November 2013 meeting of the Septic System Coordination Work Group. According to Judy, it sounded as if Ogden Dunes was doing the best job of education in the area. Jim said that most of the discussion still concerned collection of data. Any action appears far off. Discussion revolved around the Septic Awareness Week for the town. Should it be in March like last year, or in September when the US EPA has a similar educational effort? John said he would contact Peggy Donnelly of US EPA to get information about schedule and materials that might be available. Sharon volunteered to be the official representative. Jim said that the State rules say that counties may adopt ordinances regarding septic systems, but are not required to. LaPorte County has an ordinance that, for a \$25 fee, gives an owner a 5-year permit, after which a receipt must be submitted from a licensed vendor of septic services. Tom asked for a copy of that ordinance.

Regarding the MS4 waiver application, Jim has not made further progress, but will work on it now that holidays are over.

Judy reported on the planned presentation on recycling by Republic Services to the Lions on 24 March 2014. Theresa Davis of the Waste and Recycling District of Porter County will be present, and a representative from Republic Services.

Sue reported on Long Lake Marsh, saying that she has a list of functions needed to maintain it. The burn was generally successful, but many willow trees need to be cut and stumps painted to prevent their sprouting.

The beach testing grant was submitted on time and was given to the Town Council.

Bob reported on the Dark Skies Initiative. There are 88 street lights in town. He will discuss costs later for putting shrouds on them. It was also proposed that the sodium vapor lights be switched out for LEDs to save money in the long run. It was proposed that the two people from Beverly Shores who spearheaded that effort be invited to one of our meetings. Judy moved to invite them, and Jim seconded. Another educational effort was discussed to address that over-illuminated homes.

Sue asked that we all review the new website and make comments to her so that she can present all of them to Jenny Brown.

Bob moved to adjourn, Judy seconded, and the motion was approved at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.