

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
16 September 2020
Via Zoom

The Environmental Board met on 16 September 2020 at 3:00 pm via Zoom. Attendees were Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Sue Adams, Kristine Sandrick, and John Morris.

Vicky moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 15 July 2020. Sue seconded. The motion carried.

No progress has been made in finding replacement for Chelsea Overholt

Beach water monitoring will proceed until 20 September. There was discussion whether to monitor next year, as there is very little, if any, beach. It was suggested that boaters, paddleboarders, and others may need it. Jim raised the issue of signage at accessway 18. At some point it was removed, but it should be reinstalled before next sampling season.

Arcelor Mittal has had several problems lately, including a noncompliance letter from IDEM dated 12 August 2020 citing problems with self-monitoring, flow measurements and with the contract laboratory, Microbac. This last is a problem, since that laboratory performs the analyses of the town's drinking water. There were exceedances this summer for ammonia, and a report for whole effluent toxicity (WET) tests that passed for the acute test, but failed the chronic test. It is coming close to the 90-day time frame when the facility is to prepare a plan to address the latter, but nothing is found on the virtual file cabinet. Susan said she would prepare a letter to IDEM for Mike Webber before the next Town Council meeting, as the town must make a record of our concerns in order to have standing in any future action. Sue offered to review it after Susan completed it.

Susan wondered if skipping meetings is a problem. For continuity, the Board will try to meet more regularly.

The ozone standard comment period is up 1 October 2020. Although it would be healthier to have it lower, that it was kept the same was considered positive it the current EPA. Jim suggested a flag on ozone action days, as was done when he worked at the mill. This would alert residents to not operate gas powered mowers and other equipment, nor fill tanks on that day. Also, when waiting at a railroad crossing for the train to clear, shut off the engine rather than idling the vehicle.

Regarding the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Town, Kristine contacted Mark Juszcak today. He had not commented on the changes. He was not aware that they were being formalized to the Town Council. He and Kristine need to sit down and complete them.

Jim retrieved the Septic Smart Week banner from Ann Muntean and hung it by Hillcrest and Diana Rd. He suggested keeping the banners, including the beach cleanup in the Lion's Club shed.

For the Lighting Task Force, Kristine had posted a request for comments on Facebook, but residents are otherwise occupied.

There is nothing new for the MS4 exemption.

Susan would like to treat a small patch of phragmites in Long Lake Marsh. There is a small amount of tree of heaven.

Kristine for recycling contacting Republic to see what is being accepted for recycling. Jim suggested looking at the Porter County Waste Management web site, as it has been updated recently.

Jim moved to adjourn, and Vicky seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.