

Minutes
Ogden Dunes Environmental Advisory Board
January 9th, 2012, 8:30 a.m.
Town Hall

Present: Susan MiHalo, John Morris, Gerry Lehmann, Randi Light.

Others Present: Judy Mollway

Susan MiHalo noted that Judy Mollway has submitted an application to serve on the ODEAB and hopes the Town Council will approve her appointment.

Gerry Lehman made a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by John Morris. Minutes were passed unanimously.

Jerry agreed to monitor battery recycling; making phone calls when it's full. If appointed, Judy Mollway take over and will call Porter County Waste and Recycling District when it is nearly full. Susan will get the contact information to her.

A question was raised about whether or not the ODEAB should help residents recycle CFL lightbulbs. Right now residents can take them to the Porter County compost site. Judy offered to look into this and to make sure we could offer recycling without some special handling because these lightbulbs do contain mercury. LEDs are more expensive but last longer. Suggestion was made that town and residents buy ones with temperature equivalents of 3,000 degrees. Only the 100-watt incandescent bulb is being banned this year. John will send a link to Susan regarding 2012 Household Hazardous Waste recycling dates and locations she can get out to residents.

E-waste recycling is handled by Gerry twice yearly during the town clean up weekend. It's possible we can also place a CFL recycling container at that event. Be sure to get container with a lid connected to it. Judy also will contact Jim Biancotti, who used to be in charge of Env. at USS Midwest and would know how CFLs should be recycled. Per Indiana Law, anything with printed circuit boards or a screen larger than 4" cannot be put into the garbage. Stereo equipment is also included, not just computers.

Cell phone recycling will again be handled by Bob Cattani. By consensus it was agreed that Randi could talk with Bob Cattani about temporarily giving any new cell phones to Randi for her son Noah to earn money for a trip with People to People next summer to Italy.

Discussion was held regarding Adopt-a-Beach date. A motion was made by Randi Light, and seconded by Susan MiHalo, to try move Adopt-a-Beach date to June so we can get more participation, promote awareness and clean the beach during beach season. The motion carried.

Susan reminded everyone to submit air and water pollution complaints to IDEM since they have to follow up on every complaint. Susan will be the overall liaison with IDEM. Precoat has smell issues and USS Midwest continues to issue noise pollution. Susan will be the liaison to Precoat. Judy will talk with Jim Biancotti about who is the contact at USS Midwest. Bob will remain as AMROX liaison. Susan will look into subscribing to Google Earth alerts on these industries. Don't forget to also look at enforcement database for IDEM to make sure enforcement actions have not been taken against these locations.

The beach grant was submitted to split the beach into two beaches divided in center of town. Same schedule as last year, but potentially one more sampling location in the center of town if funding allows.

Susan encouraged ODEAB members to get involved in the Little Calumet River Watershed East Branch Watershed Management Plan efforts since that major tributary has an impact on Ogden Dunes' beach. Susan will notify ODEAB members of upcoming meetings.

ODEAB members were encouraged to monitor announcements for grants for clean diesel trucks. Susan MiHalo and Jim Matthys submitted a DieselWise grant in October that was not selected.

Gerry created an outline for the Native Planting Guidelines. Over the winter, Susan will work on creating a draft guidance document that will be used for Town maintenance purposes only, not for residents. This is to prevent invasive wildflower and nonnative plants from being planted. There is a statewide brochure for native species recommendations. Susan will get the link to that from the Indiana Plant and Wildflower Society.

Susan and Gerry will take a look at Long Lake maintenance. There is a lot of work that needs to be done before June. They may try to encourage the ODVFD to do a burn next November.

Bank swallows may be a problem again this year on the beach. Gerry recently went out and counted existing nests. All are on private land, however. Bring a list of homeowners along there to the February meeting. Consider netting prior to when any nests are re-occupied.

Regarding Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), Susan needs to send John Morris how to get notified by the CSO communities so that Susan and John are on the lists.

The ODEAB would like to look at offering a workshop from NIPSCO about their sustainability and energy savings efforts. Add to agenda for next meeting.

The next meeting is February 13 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.