

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

Minutes of the Town of Pittsford Environmental Board meeting held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 7:00PM local time. The meeting took place in the Lower-Level Meeting Room of Pittsford Town Hall, 11 S. Main Street.

PRESENT: Steve Heinzelman, Chairman; Jim Pippin; Caroline Kilmer; Jackie Ebner; Jerremy Lorch; Julie Marcellus

ABSENT: Lindsay Clark

ALSO PRESENT: April Zurowski, Planning Assistant; Meghan Brooks, Building Department Assistant; Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison; Surya Man, Student Member

ATTENDANCE: There were 3 members of the public present.

Environmental Board Chairman Steve Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION:

Rachel Scudder of the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council summarized the last few months of development of the Climate Action Plan, including the scenario-building workshop held during the Board's December meeting. She stated that a draft of the Town's climate action priorities was sent to the Board via email and that the next steps are to do some edits to the draft, following Board feedback, and finalize some greenhouse gas calculations. Following review, the plan can then be submitted to the Town Board.

Town Board Liaison Stephanie Townsend clarified with Ms. Scudder that the draft plan that was sent had staff feedback. She also asked about the fourth priority under "Municipal Facilities," regarding the purchase of streetlights. Ms. Scudder said that it is in reference to the Town purchasing them from RG&E and converting them to LED.

There was some discussion about solar options and where solar could possibly go. Board Member Jim Pippin stated that school roofs would be a great idea if they could be rented, as they are already a flat surface and would not affect open space.

Board Liaison Townsend and Environmental Board Member Jackie Ebner asked about projected timelines for each priority. Ms. Scudder said that that is one of her next steps in organizing things. Board Chairman Heinzelman suggested that the Board take the next two weeks to send feedback to Ms. Scudder on the plan, so that Ms. Scudder will then have sufficient time before the following meeting to integrate them into the next draft.

TOWN BOARD UPDATES:

Board Liaison Townsend stated that a new law will be coming before the Town Board at its next meeting (February 6, 2024) to expand the number of seats on the Environmental Board to up to 11 people. This will allow for more expertise to reside on the Board and allow more interested residents to participate. This first meeting will allow the Town Board to vote to set a public hearing. The public hearing would then take place in March. She added that the Pittsford Oaks project is also a continuing item on the agenda.

There was a discussion about the 2024 meeting schedule. Several Board members expressed a desire to find an alternate date for the September meeting that will be canceled due to Labor Day.

PLANNING BOARD/STAFF UPDATES:

Planning Assistant April Zurowski shared that the Stormwater Coalition sent the Town some numbers from the flooding event a couple of weekends ago, which included 1.37 inches of rainfall and 1 inch of snowmelt.

The Board held a discussion on whether there are options to help reduce future flooding impacts, especially in areas like the Long Meadow neighborhood. Ms. Scudder noted that a lot of this flooding topic had been brought up in the scenario-building exercise. Environmental Board Member Caroline Kilmer mentioned county programs and projects that help with rainwater, such as pilot projects for rain gardens and barrels. Board Member Pippin noted that for rainwater gardens to make a difference in areas like Long Meadow, it would take a large amount of data to determine how water and drainage affected each property, as well as significant engineering. He added that it he would like to see a note in the climate action plan for engineering the flooding hot spots in Town.

Ms. Zurowski stated that the food scraps recycling program continues to go well. Student Member Surya Man asked if there are any plans for expansion. Ms. Zurowski stated that there are no active plans yet; if the pilot program were to continue, it would have to open to all residents, and while the program technically full, only a small percentage of participants are very active. There was some discussion about costs associated with the program.

Ms. Zurowski also gave a brief overview of the Pittsford Oaks Apartments complex that is proposed for the old Barns Bazaar property by West Jefferson Road and Clover Street. She stated that it is currently before the Town Board, and that both the Planning Board and Design Review & Historic Preservation Board have submitted feedback regarding the project. There was some discussion about parking ratios. Board Chairman Heinzelman asked why the Town would advocate for more parking, especially since it is backwards from an environmental standpoint. Ms. Zurowski stated that while she agrees from an environmental perspective, there are other apartment areas in Pittsford that have struggled with insufficient parking and residents are forced to park on roads.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Environmental Board Member Caroline Kilmer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2023, and December 4, 2023, seconded by Environmental Board Member Julie Marcellus. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Brooks
Building Department Assistant

OFFICIAL MINUTES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE PLANNING
DEPARTMENT