

Approved Minutes 5-6-2019

PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Minutes
May 6, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen Heinzelman, Julie Marcellus, Jim Pippin, Seth O'Bryan, Hali Buckley

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Beckford, Town Board Liaison, Doug DeRue, Director of Planning Zoning & Dev., Jessica Yaeger, Environmental Board Secretary

ABSENT: Kim Weisbeck

CHAIRMAN: Steve Heinzelman

Chairman Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Chairman Heinzelman made a motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2019. Board Member Julie Marcellus seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved following a unanimous voice vote.

TOWN BOARD UPDATE:

Kevin Beckford stated that there are no Town Board updates at this time. One project that has come to through the Town Board meeting recently is a revised proposal for Kilbourn Place. He explained when the project first came to the Board, residents were concerned about many aspects of the project including the look of the building, how it would affect their property value, and the possibility of (college) student residents occupying the residence. The applicants came back with lower profile plans that were more environmentally friendly and possibly more affordable. Their next step is to have a meeting with residents in the area. Mr. Beckford will keep the Environmental Board up to date as they Town Board gets more information.

Chairman Heinzelman also addressed an update received from Town Supervisor Bill Smith on the Canal Clearcutting Issue as the Environmental Board continues to help advice the Town Board on the issue. He also summarized the Town's Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) plan in that the next step would be to provide information and tips to residents on the Town's website.

Canal Clearcutting Issue:

Board Member Jim Pippin, as Point Person of the Environmental Board for the Canal Clearcutting Issue shared the information he researched up to this point. He explained he tried to approach the issue from both sides. He explained the Bushnell's Basin (canal) collapse forensics showed a lot of information he used to help interpret the current Clearcutting issue. The information showed that in areas where the canal is above grade level held up by damming and/or berms, there is a benefit to get rid of trees as rotting trees and dying roots can create tunneling leading to wall breaks. However, in areas below grade level, trees would not need to be removed. Board Member Pippin also explained that after the canal break in 1974, the rebuild of the canal above grade level was done to help prevent roots from damaging the canal walls and current conditions are strong. In his opinion, removing trees quickly with a "clear cut" would cause more damage at first, causing instability and erosion. Management of the trees, including selective cutting of dead trees, would be more beneficial and would help keep trees in areas that are above grade level. Chairman Heinzelman asked Jim Pippin to summarize his research and send his summary to the Environmental Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD DISCUSSIONS:

Town's Pesticide Management

Chairman Heinzelman summarized the Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) including the Town's decrease in grub control on fields to evaluate the effects, as well as the purchase of a new tool to help with weed control. Overall, the Environmental Board's conclusion is that the new plan is reasonable. Kevin Beckford reinforced the importance to educate the residents on private pesticide use. Chairman Heinzelman closed the discussion for now.

Comprehensive Plan 2019

- *Keeping It Green Committee*

In 2009, a steering committee was created along with another committee of residents that formed the Keeping it Green Committee. This committee was formed with the mission to help make the Town of Pittsford a more environmentally friendly community. There were numerous recommendations on how to do this, and they mainly focused on ways to help educate residents to be greener, as well as marketing initiative. The committee also recommended things that the Town itself could do to be more energy efficient including energy audits and using more efficient lighting. Chairman Heinzelman served on the steering committee and noted that some recommendations that were made have not been addressed but in his opinion, he is not sure if it is worth the Town's time and resources to delve back into it. The Town has made many environmentally friendly improvements since this Committee was formed including energy efficient lighting, electric car charging stations, and refuse districts, just to name a few. Chairman Heinzelman thought it remains important that the Town leads by example.

There was voiced concern from Board Member Marcellus and Board Member O'Bryan about the lack of information involving environmental efforts done in the town and thought that environmental information concerning topics and events should be publicized more and made more readily and easily accessible to the public, including on the Town's website.

- *NYS Climate Smart Community – Bronze Certification*

Board Member Marcellus brought this program to the Board's attention and expressed that she thought it was something that the Town of Pittsford should pursue. Chairman Heinzelman talked with Town Supervisor Bill Smith. The Town of Pittsford is a "Clean Energy Community" certified with NYSEERDA. The hesitation of taking part in this program is that there is a lot of work that goes into it and is found to have less high impact aspects for Clean Energy than other programs Pittsford is part of. Board Member Buckley asked if there was any overlap in what the Town is already doing to make it worth the work of becoming certified through the program. Doug DeRue, Director of Planning and Zoning confirmed that there are many things on the Certification Actions that the Town is already doing. Chairman Heinzelman said the Environmental Board members can compare the program to what initiatives the Town is already doing to help define an area of overlap to help determine if this program would be worth taking part in and send their advice to Bill Smith.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Doug DeRue, Staff Liaison

- **3750 Monroe Ave**, tabled until end of June
- **3122 Monroe Ave**
Doug DeRue, Director of Planning and Zoning explained this small scale Walgreens Pharmacy that is coming to the Planning Board on the May 13th meeting.

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OTHER TOPICS:

Chairman Heinzelman informed the Board of the open volunteer spot for the Monroe County Environmental Management Council. They meet mid-month, once a month, at 4:00 pm. Chairman Heinzelman said he would send out information to get a volunteer.

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully,

Jessica Yaeger
Secretary to the Environmental Board