

**PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**

Minutes

February 7, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stephen Heinzelman, Julie Marcellus, Jim Pippin, Lindsay Clark, Jackie Ebner

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Doug DeRue, Director of Planning Zoning & Development, April Zurowski, Environmental Board Secretary, Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 1

**ABSENT:** Hali Buckley

**CHAIRMAN:** Steve Heinzelman

Chairman Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

Environmental Board Member Julie Marcellus made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022, seconded by Board Member Lindsay Clark. The minutes were approved following a unanimous voice vote.

**PLANNING BOARD UPDATE:** Doug DeRue, Staff Liaison

Doug DeRue, Staff Liaison, informed the Environmental Board of the status of previously mentioned Planning Board applications. He stated that the group of ten Verizon Wireless cellular site proposals are still in the approval process. Residents have been vocal at the Planning Board meetings regarding these applications. Kilbourn Place Apartments and Oak Hill Country Club's Cottages are in the construction phase and are moving along rather quickly. The Town has not received any new large Planning Board applications, but a small application from Kilbourn Place Apartments has been received.

Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend asked Mr. DeRue to explain what the application received from Kilbourn Place Apartments was regarding.

Mr. DeRue stated that the proposal is to add landscaping and amenities near the Wright House, also known as the new community center. The applicant is proposing a patio area fit with a grilling station and chairs, as well as some other minor improvements.

**TOWN BOARD UPDATE:**

Board Member Jackie Ebner introduced a conversation regarding the program "A Frog House". She stated that the program currently offers a grant opportunity surrounding biodiversity. She advised the Board that advocating for the program may be beneficial for the Town. Town Board Liaison Stephanie Townsend stated that Supervisor Smith may coordinate with Town staff to complete the application.

Jill Bellinger, a member of the public, stated that she was in attendance to advise the Board to advocate for a gas leaf blower ban. Ms. Bellinger has been supporting an incoming legislation proposal to ban gas leaf blowers. She stated that many major newspapers are highlighting the harmful effects of gas lawn equipment. Both California and Washington DC have moved away from gas lawn equipment. She expressed concern about hearing loss, noise pollution that bothers neighbors, and the release of

hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. She stated that New York State is currently working to ban gas leaf blowers during 5 months of the year to reduce pollution.

Board Member Jackie Ebner asked Ms. Bellinger how the Board and the Town may be able to help.

Ms. Bellinger asked the Board for a letter of support for the proposed ban.

Town Board Member Townsend advised the Board and Ms. Bellinger that members of the Town Board may be in support of this legislation, but the Town as a whole may not endorse.

Board Chairman Steve Heinzelman voiced his personal opinion to advocate for the ban of gas leaf blowers.

Doug DeRue advised the Board that creating prohibition is hard to enforce at the Town level.

Board Member Jackie Ebner mentioned the differences between NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program and the Climate Smart Communities, though both are complimentary. Color Pittsford Green advised the Town to look into a community campaign with Heat Smart Monroe to satisfy sections of both programs.

Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend described the Town staff's efforts to submit paperwork to become a certified Climate Smart Community. The Environmental Board will then advise on actions to complete to move towards a higher certification.

Board Chairman Steve Heinzelman asked if the Town is currently certified as a Clean Energy Community. Town Board Member Townsend stated that the Town has received a preliminary certification, but is looking to reach higher achievements.

Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend stated that she believes the best way to achieve Town goals, expressed in the Comprehensive Plan, would be to implement a Climate Action Plan.

The Board proceeded to list ways the Town is currently meeting our goals, as well as areas the Board believes improvement is necessary.

Town Board Member Townsend advised members to review other municipality Climate Action Plans to discuss at the next meeting.

**OTHER DISCUSSIONS:**

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:18PM.

Respectfully,

April Zurowski  
Secretary to the Environmental Board