

PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Minutes
May 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Heinzelman, Jerremy Lorch, Julie Marcellus, Jim Pippin, Caroline Kilmer, Lindsay Clark

ABSENT: Jackie Ebner

OTHERS PRESENT: April Zurowski, Planning Assistant; Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison; Surya Man, Student Member

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Environmental Board Member Julie Marcellus made a motion to approve the minutes of March 6, 2023, seconded by Environmental Board Member Caroline Kilmer. The minutes were approved following a unanimous voice vote.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Chairman Steve Heinzelman

Chairman Steve Heinzelman discussed the creation of a Climate Action Plan. After speaking with Environmental Board Member Jackie Ebner and Rachel Scudder from the Genesee/Finger Lake Regional Planning Council, he was able to describe the different aspects of the plan to the Board. The Board plans to decide what greenhouse gas reduction targets have the highest priority and move forward. Chairman Heinzelman believes this plan will take approximately 3-6 months to develop. Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend asked how Ms. Scudder would assist the process. Chairman Heinzelman explained that she would be a resource for questions or suggestions but would not be a contact for writing the plan. Environmental Board Member Caroline Kilmer stated that she has worked with GFLRPC before and has great experiences. Staff Liaison April Zurowski stated that GFLRPC, and Ms. Scudder specifically, assisted with the Town's Climate Smart Communities designation received late last year. Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend asked if Environmental Board members would be available to assist in writing a Climate Action Plan for the Town. Environmental Board Member Jerremy Lorch, Student Member Surya Man, and Chairman Heinzelman volunteered their time. Chairman Steve Heinzelman motioned for the Environmental Board to recommend the GFLRPC to the Town Board, seconded by Board Member Caroline Kilmer. The motion was approved following a unanimous voice vote.

TOWN BOARD UPDATE: Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Member

Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend stated that the Town had successful Earth Day and Arbor Day events. She also updated the Board on the ongoing Zoning Code Update, stating that the Residential Code sections are next on the agenda. Town Board Member Townsend asked the Environmental Board to assist the Town's Communication Director, Shelley O'Brien, with planning for upcoming social media posts regarding environmental issues. Specifically, Ms. O'Brien asked the Board to contribute small paragraphs regarding native plantings, invasive species, pollinators, food waste, energy use, etc. Environmental Board Member Kilmer suggested that the Town share posts from Eco Park, Cornell Cooperative, and other environmental groups.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: April Zurowski, Staff Liaison

Staff Liaison and Town Planning Assistant April Zurowski discussed a recent webinar she attended regarding Climate Smart Communities efforts in Buffalo and the surrounding region.

Ms. Zurowski updated the Board on ongoing and upcoming Planning Board applications. She stated that Development Review Committee report responses were received from BME Associates regarding Coventry Ridge Section 4, a subdivision the Board submitted comments for. She informed the Board that their comments regarding an emergent wetland on the site were addressed and that the applicant stated that the site has been previously disturbed and that the "emergent wetland" was actually a trench and sediment basin system created to stabilize the site. Board Members Kilmer and Pippin asked that the Planning Board take another look at the applicant's responses.

Ms. Zurowski also discussed some upcoming applications that will likely not facilitate Environmental Board comments including a 3-lot subdivision of 215 Mendon Road and a Verizon Wireless monopole to be located at the Town Highway Garage.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

Audrey Clignett, of 6 Knobb Hill Dr, asked the Board if the Town has banned pesticide use or gas leaf blowers. Town Board Member Stephanie Townsend informed Ms. Clignett that the Town Board cannot illegalize pesticide use on private property but has taken efforts to reduce pesticide use on Town-owned property.

Chairman Heinzelman welcomed the Board's newest student member, Surya Man, a Sophomore at Pittsford Mendon High School. Student Member Surya Man stated that she is the co-president of her school's Environmental Board and is interested in studying Environmental Science in college.

Environmental Board Student Member Surya Man asked the Board for assistance with starting a composting campaign at her school. Town Board Member Townsend stated that the Town and the school district are separate entities. Kathy Sinclair, of 17 Rockdale Meadows, stated that Color Pittsford Green would be able to assist her. Environmental Board Member Lindsay Clark also recommended Impact Earth for help.

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM.

Respectfully,

April Zurowski
Planning Assistant