

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF
PITTSFORD, NY
2023 OCT -3 P 3:37

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Heinzelman, Jim Pippin, Caroline Kilmer, Jackie Ebner

ABSENT: Lindsay Clark, Jerremy Lorch, Julie Marcellus

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 4

Chairman Steve Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:03PM.

UPDATES FROM TOWN SUPERVISOR: Bill Smith, Town Supervisor

Town Supervisor Bill Smith gave a brief update on new environmental initiatives within the Town of Pittsford, stating that the food scraps pilot program and the pollinator pathways program are both underway. He also noted that the Volunteer Board Dinner will be held at Oak Hill Country Club on Thursday, October 26, starting around 5:30PM.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION: Rachel Scudder from GFLRPC

Rachel Scudder of Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council gave a presentation on the climate action plan process for the Town of Pittsford. The presentation contextualized Ms. Scudder's background and organization, stating that its purpose is to help facilitate and assist municipalities in preparing climate adaptation mitigation and action plans. The climate action plan is a plan that outlines a collection of measures and plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is different from a sustainability plan, which is usually broader in scope.

Ms. Scudder then highlighted the two phases of the climate action plan. In Phase I, the municipal action plan, the focus is on creating a set of strategies to increase a community's resilience to climate change. Phase II, which has a proposed January start date, focuses on greenhouse gas emissions in residential and commercial fleets, facilities, etc.

Ms. Scudder stressed that the overall goal of the climate action plan is to create science-based targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save taxpayers money, set a regional example, and build a basis to implement change. Town of Pittsford is already a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community and is now working towards a silver certification. She noted that there is no silver-certified community yet in the Finger Lakes region, and that there are grants available to assist the Town in reaching its goals. She then showed a draft timeline of moving through the climate action plan process.

The Environmental Board's responsibilities for this process will be evaluating existing policies, choosing greenhouse gas initiatives, prioritizing policies and projects, gathering additional data, coordinating public outreach, and reviewing drafts. Categories of initiatives that the Board will be choosing from are transportation, municipal facilities, waste and recycling, and renewable energy.

Ms. Sutton also suggested that the Board host a scenario-building community outreach event that would include a group discussion to explore future climate change scenarios. The purpose of this would be to create a shared community vision to adapt to changing climate with interested stakeholders.

After concluding the presentation, the Environmental Board discussed the next steps that needed to be completed. Town Board Liaison Stephanie Townsend asked how frequently the Board should meet in order to keep the timeline. Ms. Scudder responded that twice a month would likely be good. After some discussion, meeting dates were scheduled for Monday, October 2 at 7PM, Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30PM, and Monday, November 6 at 7PM.

Board Member Jackie Ebner stated that it seemed most prudent for the Town to share what they foresee doing first and then the Board can prioritize those initiatives. That way she can quantify the impacts based on what is happening first. She also inquired as to whether there is already data available on those topics, and Board Member Pippin asked if the Board's maps and resources would be updated so they could make an accurate analysis of what points should be prioritized. Ms. Scudder confirmed that up-to-date data is available.

In regard to the community outreach event, Ms. Scudder noted that the dynamic of the conversation and process changes dramatically when the discussion moves from internal to public. Town Board Liaison Townsend stressed the importance of highlighting the scientific aspect of the climate action plan while maintaining the opportunity for the community to engage. Board Chairman Heinzelman added that engagement will also be greatly influenced by the chosen topic.

Chairman Heinzelman concluded this section of the meeting by confirming that the presentation and resources that Ms. Scudder shared would be sent digitally to the Board so that steps could be taken before the next meeting on October 2.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Steve Heinzelman, Chairman

Chairman Heinzelman asked if anyone had any thoughts to share with the Board regarding social media updates. Board Member Caroline Kilmer stated she sent some post ideas to Board Member Jeremy Lorch. Board Member Ebner requested clarification on the goals for social media. Town Board Representative Townsend responded that each post would serve one or more of the following purposes: to educate residents on a particular subject matter; to demonstrate what the Town is doing around the community; and to recommend steps a resident could take to be more environmentally friendly at home.

Board Member Kilmer then summarized her experience at the Environmental Management Council meeting on September 20. She noted that, during the meeting, she had the opportunity to highlight the Town's recent accomplishments and programs, including its certification as a Climate Smart Community, its joint food scraps program with Monroe County, and the new

pollinator pathway program. She stated that the group meets every month, and that she is, additionally, now a member of the Nominee and Community Liaison Subcommittee within the Council.

PLANNING BOARD/STAFF UPDATES: April Zurowski, Planning Assistant

April Zurowski, the Town Planning Assistant, summarized the projects going on around Pittsford. These include the subdivision projects currently underway, a few individual new homes, and collegiate facility upgrades at St. John Fisher University and Nazareth University. She added that the French Road sidewalk is coming along well and that paving just took place.

Chairman Heinzelman asked if there have been any issues. Ms. Zurowski stated that most projects have gone smoothly. There were some issues at Bridleridge that have since been resolved, and they will be hydroseeding shortly to stabilize a lot of the acreage.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Environmental Board Member Caroline Kilmer made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2023, seconded by Environmental Board Student Member Surya Mann. The minutes were approved following a unanimous voice vote.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

Board Member Ebner inquired about the current numbers in the food scraps program. Town Supervisor Smith stated that his most recent update was about 290 residents registered. Ms. Zurowski confirmed that the current number of signups is now around 390. She also stated that more statistics should follow once the program is further along.

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:04PM.

Respectfully,



Meghan Brooks
Building Department Assistant

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