

Town of Pittsford Environmental Board
MINUTES
June 3, 2024

Minutes of the Town of Pittsford Environmental Board meeting held on Monday, June 3, 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: Jim Pippin; Ethan Greene; Jerremy Lorch; Aubrey Clignett, Caroline Kilmer

ABSENT: Steve Heinzelman, Chairman; Jackie Ebner; Julie Marcellus

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

ATTENDANCE: There was 14 members of the public present.

Environmental Board Member Audrey Clignett opened the meeting at 7:01PM.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION:

Rachel Scudder of the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council summarized some of the changes and edits that have been made to the Climate Action Plan since the last meeting, based on the Board's comments submitted to her. Ms. Scudder stated that there is now a chart with all the acronyms included, and the introduction has been expanded. Board Member Jerremy Lorch completed a thorough edit of the entire document. The priorities and measures have been expanded and are ordered by High, Medium, and Low. She added that there are still several items she is revising, including the scenario narrative. She asked if the Board had an opinion on items such as green hydrogen as an alternative energy form, and the Board suggested she keep it in but note it as an "emerging fuel."

Ms. Scudder asked for clarification that Greenprint is the plan that identifies areas of land that could be protected. Planning Assistant April Zurowski stated that it is, and that it is not the areas of protected land themselves, as not all areas listed under Greenprint are protected.

Ms. Scudder stated that she should be done with this stage of revisions by the end of day tomorrow and will turn it back around to the Board. The Board should return comments by Sunday, June 9, so that she can make edits by Tuesday, June 11, to get it to the next Town Board meeting. Town Board Liaison Stephanie Townsend and Ms. Zurowski encouraged her to take her time so that everything can be done precisely and thoroughly rather than rushing to meet a timeline.

Board Liaison Townsend asked how Ms. Scudder is feeling about the plan overall. Ms. Scudder responded that while nothing has really been changed to the content, the edits have helped to make things clearer and more linear.

TOWN BOARD UPDATES:

Board Liaison Townsend stated that there are three items appearing in tomorrow night's Town Board meeting that may interest the Board. The first item is the next step in the Tobey sidewalk, which will go from Clover Street to Cricket Hill Drive. She stated this section is critical because it will help connect pedestrians to the YMCA on West Jefferson Road. The plan is in the preliminary stages. She noted that Monroe County has developed a part of their plan that helps share sidewalk costs with local municipalities. While this sidewalk plan has been deemed to have minimal environmental impact, some trees may need to be removed to facilitate its construction. She added that the Town plants more trees than are removed every year.

The second item is the refuse districts proposed for 2025. There are 14 new districts and extensions, adding an additional 700+ houses to make a new total of over 3,000 homes in refuse districts within the Town. Board Member Jackie Ebner asked how the Town facilitates the hauling services. Board Liaison Townsend stated that it is a contract held through one company. The decrease in truck traffic is cited as the number one reason people want refuse districts for their neighborhood. Tomorrow night, the Town Board will set the public hearing.

The third item is the Parks Director will be speaking about the Bird Harbor at Great Embankment Park. The program came through the Town Board a few years ago, and the Town is beginning to work towards launching it.

PLANNING BOARD/STAFF UPDATES:

Ms. Zurowski stated that Board Member Caroline Kilmer joined her and other staff on the Coventry Ridge Section 3 site walk. Board Member Kilmer stated that the developer does not see the point in adding another trail because there are trails on either side. She stated that she sees his point but feels uncertain about it. Ms. Zurowski brought out a preliminary site map to show the Board more clearly what they are speaking of. There was discussion on maintenance roads and trails. The main issue currently is that one trail was not constructed and is missing. Thus, the neighborhood does not connect directly into Isaac Gordon Park. The trail was part of the approved concept plan.

The Board agreed unanimously that they would like to see the trail put in place.

Ms. Zurowski stated that Pittsford Oaks will be going to the Planning Board in July. She summarized the project and stated that, while the project is still very early in development, she wants the Board to start reflecting on the landscaping plan. Board Member Pippin asked if they would be keeping the existing vegetation at the corner of Clover and West Jefferson. Ms. Zurowski stated that some will probably be removed, and that there is not much to begin with. She stated that she will send the application out to the Board digitally so they can give it a more thorough review. She asked the Board to please submit feedback on the amount, location, species, native etc. of the landscaping. The DRC meeting will be on June 25. The Planning Board meeting will be in July.

BOARD UPDATE:

Board Member Lorch stated that he did not receive any new social media posts recently, but the first post draft to come from the Board's list was posted to the Town's Facebook page a couple of weeks ago. Board Member Kilmer stated that the post was not written by her, just outlined,

and that maybe suggestions are better than the already-written posts. Board Liaison Townsend stated that, in the Town, longer posts with more information perform better.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Environmental Board Member Julie Marcellus made a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2024, seconded by Environmental Board Member Jackie Ebner. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Environmental Board Member Jerremy Lorch adjourned the meeting at 7:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Brooks
Building Department Assistant

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