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PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Minutes
April 1, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen Heinzelman, Julie Marcellus, Seth O'Bryan, Kim Weisbeck, Jim Pippin

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug DeRue, Director of Planning Zoning & Dev., Jessica Yaeger, Environmental Board Secretary, Bill Smith, Town Supervisor, Justin Vlietstra, Village Resident

ABSENT: Hali Buckley

CHAIRMAN: Steve Heinzelman

- Chairman Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:06 pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

- Board Member Julie Marcellus made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, Chairman Steve Heinzelman seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved following a unanimous voice vote.

TOWN BOARD UPDATE:

Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM Plan)

The first issue discussed was the Town's Integrated Pesticide Management Plan that has recently been updated as some residents began pushing hard to eliminate the use of pesticides on all town parks and entrance ways. Jessica Neal, General Foreman of the Town's Parks Department, and Paul Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works presented the updated IPM Plan to the public addressing and detailing what the Town is applying to their fields and outlined what they would be doing going forward. Board Member Julie Marcellus attended the meeting where she noted "14 citizens gave comments, 11 were supportive of the IPM plan including the President and VP of Little League, the head of the Pittsford Mustangs, and Roger Powers (farmer). Stacy Pinisi, Jessica Neal's counterpart from Perinton ended the comments also in support of the plan. Mary Moore and two others spoke against the plan wanting a complete ban to set an example." She felt that the presentation was well researched and well documented and showed that the Town is doing all they can do to use pesticides for safety and structural integrity specifically. The consensus is that the focus needs to be on educating the public and residents on what they use and how they can cut down or eliminate pesticides applied to private property (Over a year, the Town uses the same amount of pesticides on 1,300 acres that 2 households use with a contractor in one year period).

Bill Smith, Town Supervisor, added that the Town traditionally uses contractors to take care of neighborhood open spaces (usually a condition when a new subdivision is created). This year they requested that bids be made using organic pesticides only rather than obtaining bids using conventional treatments.

Board Member Kimberly Weisbeck asked if Round Up will still be used. Bill Smith answered that the Town only uses 1 bottle of Round Up per year for all 1,300 acres they care for. Board Member Weisbeck expressed apprehension about the presentation made concerning mis-information about the misconceptions of using Round Up.

Bill Smith and Chairman Steve Heinzelman discussed the uses and effects of pesticides (specifically Round Up) in relation to the small amount used by the Town.

Chairman Heinzelman summarized that he overall agreed with the Town's Integrated Pesticide Management Plan update, and Bill Smith asked the Environmental Board to help look at ways the Town can educate the public in what pesticides they use, how they use it and when they use it to help

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homeowners decrease the amount of pesticides they are using and help them use pesticides more efficiently. He mentioned there is a small committee being assembled to discuss how to do this as well. Board Member Marcellus asked if she could be a part of this committee as well to help intersect committee and Environmental Board.

Chairman Heinzelman asked if there was anything on the Town's website that provided homeowners with best lawn care practices. Bill Smith answered no, not as of yet.

Board Member Jim Pippin added he felt like the Integrated Pesticide Management Plan made a great point in that different neighborhoods may need different lawn care depending on what type of soil they have. The idea of creating different lawn care recommendations for different soil types was suggested.

The consensus of the Environmental Board on this topic was the need to focus on finding ways to educate the public on the right things to do when it comes to pesticide use, application and responsible lawn care.

Canal Clearcutting Issue:

The Canal Clearcutting Issue is the Town's effort to stop the Canal Corporation and the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) from cutting down all the trees along the Erie Canal. The Town began by trying to discuss a compromise with NYPA which was not received. After the Towns of Pittsford, Brighton and Perinton came together and took the Canal Corporation and NYPA to court, they won the case that the NYPA did not take the proper steps through the SEQR process to consider the environmental factors that would result in cutting down all vegetation down along the canal embankment. Bill Smith said it is important to know what was won in this case as the canal clearcutting issue has not ended. He added that the Towns have reached out to the New York State Power Authority since the court proceeding which no response. He knows this issue is going to arise again and wants to be proactive to be in front of the issue. He suggested that the Environmental Board research environmental factors that would be impacted by the clearcutting along the canal.

Board Member Jim Pippin asked if the Town has looked into being the Lead Agency in the Long EAF that will need to be done through SEQR which will make the Canal Corporation and NYPA provided Geological input as to the reasons why they want to do this and will force them to provide a purpose and need to do this. The big questions among Town Board Members is the reason as to why the Canal Corporation and New York Power Authority thinks this is necessary to improve the health of the canal when there has been no report that the health of the canal isn't stable. Also, clearcutting would greatly affect the wild life habitats in the area, including threatened species of Northern Long-eared bats in our area. Bill Smith asked Board Member Pippin if he would talk with the Town attorney to give his expertise and opinion on these environmental issues concerning the canal clearcutting. Board Member Pippin said he would be happy to and became the Environmental Board's point person for this topic.

The Environmental Board's overall question is the motive to cut down the vegetation along the canal embankment and the Environmental Board will be helping to compile ideas and concerns clearcutting would negatively effect. Chairman Heinzelman asked board members to get their input to Jim Pippin as soon as they can to begin gathering necessary information.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Doug DeRue, Staff Liaison

- **Monroe Golf Club**
 - Mr. DeRue explained that the Site Plan for the new maintenance building was approved with modifications. He added that part of their modifications included not clearing a section of pines to the West of the building that was originally graded to be cleared. Another condition of approval was a landscaping deposit to be made in case additional landscaping needs to be added in areas along Golf Ave.

- **Terraces at Cloverwood**

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- Mr. DeRue noted that they received Preliminary Approval, but as this is a big project there are some details that still need fine tuning. The biggest thing Mr. DeRue was happy about was the impressive number of trees that were added to the project.
- **Alpine Ridge**
 - After recently receiving Preliminary Subdivision approval, the major issue remaining concerns the trail plan within the subdivision. Trail placement and materials to be used for the trails are still being worked on. One good thing that came with this subdivision was the fact that there was some agricultural land saved.
- **St. John Fisher College**
 - Mr. DeRue noted the background of this application that has received Special Use Permit Approval. The application was met with a lot of resistance when the College wanted to add additional parking facing Fairport Road in front of a new dorm, as they had previously stated no additional parking would be needed. Through the Planning Board process, the college provided an array of options to hide parking including landscaping, fencing and a masonry wall. The Planning Board choose the masonry wall, which uses very little landscaping to hide wall or parking due to additional space needed for footing.
- **3750 Monroe Ave**
 - Overall, Mr. DeRue said that this application has created some controversy with residents concerning the effect on traffic this additional light will have along Monroe Avenue and the Village of Pittsford, as well as the question of future development of property (3750 Monroe Ave). He concluded that it is hard to determine whether this will be good or bad for traffic. He went over the DRC Report findings with the Environmental Board.
- **Bridleridge Farms Subdivision**
 - This subdivision is close to final approval for Section 1. The big part of this approval is the extension of the sewers under the NYS Thruway and up to Reeves Road to allow existing residents the opportunity to connect to sewers.

OTHER TOPICS:

Board Member Marcellus sent an article about Demicology concerning demolition and the study of the life cycles of the built environment. Doug DeRue read the article and summarized that there were some good parts to it that can relate to the Town. It talked about the struggle between tearing properties down, creating waste, but conversely, keeping decaying buildings up hurt properties around it. The article recommends planning for the end of life of a structure in the planning process, and how for Demicology to work, deconstructed material would be given a second life of some kind.

Chairman Heinzelman motioned to close the meeting seconded by Board Member Weisbeck & following a unanimous voice vote the meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully,

Jessica Yaeger
Secretary to the Environmental Board