

PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Minutes

October 7, 2019

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Beckford, Town Board Liaison, Doug DeRue, Director of Planning Zoning & Dev., Jessica Yaeger, Environmental Board Secretary

ABSENT: None

CHAIRMAN: Steve Heinzelman

Chairman Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

TOWN BOARD UPDATE:

CCA (Community Choice Aggregation)

Kevin Beckford, the Town Board liaison, gave the Environmental Board the latest update from Town Supervisor Bill Smith regarding the Town's progression with Community Choice Aggregation program which has the goal of providing lower cost electricity to Pittsford residents from 100% renewable sources. The Town, partnered with Brighton and Irondequoit has selected an administrator. There will be public outreach meetings scheduled for late November and December. The administrator will then obtain bids for electricity at a lower cost than residents currently pay to RG&E, Pittsford will proceed with a CCA program. Next step would be for the Town to send out letter to residents allowing them to opt out if the wish. After the opt-out period, they the Town will start with the new electricity program. Town Board member Beckford projected the program to start in the first quarter next year and is looking forward to obtaining electricity from 100% renewable sources. Doug DeRue, Director of Planning and Zoning said that it is hard to tell at how long the process will take as this is something new the Town has never done which makes giving an exact timeline hard to do.

Adoption of Comprehensive Plan 2019

Kevin Beckford, the Town Board liaison said that the Board has been getting a lot of emails with questions regarding more affordable housing in Pittsford and some of the challenges it presents. He said the good thing is that this has started discussion in Pittsford that Board Member Beckford said has not happened before. He added that he did not mean for this to be a total solution to desegregate but change momentum of segregation. He summarized that affordable housing can't be targeted just by racial groups, and that the intent was to target an income range that has more ethnic and socio-economic diversity, it raises the issue of young people that work in Pittsford also being able to live in Pittsford. His hope is that we will be able to talk more about this as a community moving forward.

Environmental Board member Julie Marcellus said that she attended all 3 Town Board meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan and also submitted the Environmental Board's input. Town Board Member Townsend was able to get an amendment in that included the Town to identify and pursue alternative clean energy technologies (such as solar and geothermal), as well as encourage and allowing architectural designs to use environmentally sustainable building designs, materials and technologies.

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Environmental Board member Marcellus added that the Town received a quote from RGE to upgrade to LED lights in the Town. RGE will make the Town pay for the remaining life of the current bulbs. Board Member Hali Buckley asked if the bulbs will be thrown away once removed and why the Town has to pay for the remaining life of the bulb that we have now. Town Board liaison Kevin Beckford explained that it is hard to reuse the bulbs since everyone is moving away from them so it is a way for RGE to recover some cost (thousands of dollars across many areas). Town will pay RGE for LED bulbs as well, but the return the Town will get for paying for remaining life and to replace with LED bulbs will be less than a year.

Environmental Board member Kim Weisbeck asked if it would be more cost effective to wait for a time period before replacing the bulbs. Kevin Beckford said that RGE calculates "average life" of a bulb and the return is so great that he doesn't think it would matter much.

EB member Marcellus also brought up some Town communities expressing interest in more lighting and will be looking into using solar lighting. Doug DeRue asked if RGE has a solar product that the Town would purchase or would it be on the Town to install. He wasn't sure why RGE would be involved as solar lights wouldn't need them to run wire/supply power. Mr. DeRue assumed the Town would be the one to implement. The Board discussed that solar lighting is more environmentally friendly than power but no lighting is better. Different neighborhoods in the Town use different practices for lighting such as turning outside lights on houses off at certain time.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD DISCUSSIONS:

NYS Climate Smart Certification VS. NYSERDA Certification

Chairman Heinzelman thought that the Board had submitted comments to Town Supervisor Bill Smith. He asked if there was any more discussion on the topic.

Board Member Marcellus thought that the Environmental Board was going to discuss the Keeping It Green Committee's findings to see if the Town could implement those findings.

Chairman Heinzelman responded that many of the Committee's suggestions have already been implemented such as talked about solar street light installations, and switching to LED's, and that he couldn't think of anything big to begin to implement now. Kevin Beckford also noted Kings Bend and Chairman Heinzelman said the Board could be of some assistance with that. The only thing he could think of that could be addressed was to re-examine the Town's vehicle fleet to make sure it is as energy efficient as possible.

Board Member Marcellus asked if there was anything in the Committee's report about ways to decreasing overall municipal waste. Chairman Heinzelman noted that the Town wasn't considered a big waste generator when the Committee audited the Town. Board Member Marcellus suggested that we look at bringing down waste at the Town's festivals such as Paddle and Pour and the Food Truck and Music Fest. Some ways to make sure these events were more environmentally friendly would be to make sure the Town placed recycling bins out for use and to encourage the vendors to use eco-friendly products.

The Board also brought up that the school district does not have a recycling program. Board Member Weisbeck noted that the school district has implemented pilot programs that are being tested, but that the amount of waste produced by the schools is astounding. The Board wondered if the Town could partner with the schools to get them recycling services. Doug DeRue, Director of Planning and Zoning explained that there is a bigger issue with recycling outside of the Town. When there is a decreased demand to purchase recycling material, recycling services aren't necessarily processing recycled material that is collected which means that the recycling ends up in the landfill with trash collection. We have no practical solution from the Town's perspective.

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Board Member O'Bryan added that his interested in the NYSEDA Certification VS. NYS Climate Smart Certification is the Town's position on climate change. The City of Rochester and other Town municipalities in surrounding areas trying to make a stance on climate change. He would like a statement added to the Town's website. He said that he would also be interested in gathering other Town's climate change statements to read.

Board Member Buckley discussed that her neighborhood adopted a refuse district which helps limit the amount of trucks for entire neighborhood once a week versus multiple private companies that currently go through neighborhood. The rate was lower than what she previously paid which was an added benefit. She suggested the Town promote this to help environmentally friendly initiatives.

Board Member Weisbeck asked about some more information about the refuse districts including if there was an open enrollment period. Doug DeRue, Director of Planning and Zoning gave the Board some brief information about the refuse district and told them that since this is the 1st year the Town has done this, there has been a little bit of a learning curve. Residents have been contacting the Town with questions and the Board can do the same if they would like more information regarding refuse districts.

Canal Clear Cutting Information Update

Doug DeRue, Director of Planning and Zoning gave the Board a timeline from the Town Attorney regarding the "Earthen Embankment Integrity Program Overview" put out by the NYS Canal Corporation. The NYS Canal Corporation is developing an embankment inspection and maintenance guidebook which has been classified as a "Type 1" SEQR process subject to a full and public environmental review. Mr. DeRue pointed out that some of the dates have already passed by.

Board Member Pippin said that the Town would want to see a draft of the scoping document and the Town should be providing comment on that document because that will drives the content and scope of the environmental impact statement. Mr. DeRue replied that the Town attorney has been watching the environmental notice bulletins where this will be posted and so far there is still nothing there.

Chairman Heinzelman asked if the SEQR process applies to the original plan or if something has been altered. Mr. DeRue answered that not that he knows of. Board Member Pippin added that the SEQR document will be the adoption of this plan, not the actual cutting of any trees.

Board Member Marcellus questioned who conducts the inspections within the outlined program for the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program. Board Member Pippin explained NYPA and their consultants will be the ones to conduct the studies. Board Member Marcellus asked if that allows them some degree of bias in their findings. Board Member Pippin answered that with the results they come up with, it is up to the Town to provide comments to all of the public review opportunities given within this process to help make sure that their answers are reasonable. Mr. DeRue added that when the possible issues are identified, they (NYPA) will have to answer how this is affected. The job of the SEQR process is to minimize the impacts.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Doug DeRue, Staff Liaison

Doug DeRue, the Director of Planning and Zoning gave the Environmental Board updates on some of the applications that have come through the Town and received comment from the Environmental Board through the approval process including: the new Schottland YMCA, Nazareth Golisano Athletic Training Center, new Dormitory and parking lot at St. John Fisher College, and Monroe Golf Club Maintenance Building.

When discussing the new approval of the Bridleridge Farm Subdivision, Town Board member Kevin Beckford asked how many houses were planned to be built and the projected cost of each house. Mr. DeRue answered that the total development will have 120 house on 213 acres. He didn't know an exact cost projection but that the houses will sell for whatever people will pay for the houses that Ted

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Spall builds. He added that Ted Spall's model tends to be the 2-story colonial house and that the Town doesn't have much they can do to dictate what type of house Ted Spall builds or give him a maximum or minimum size that can be built. Mr. Spall is good with his numbers and knows what he can build and what profit margin he needs. Smaller houses tend to cost more per square foot to build therefore they have a smaller profit margin. Town Board member Beckford commented that this is something that he has a hard time reasoning with as he feels smaller houses could be built faster and potentially benefit smaller families and lower incomes.

Alpine Ridge Subdivision has also begun construction of 48 unites of attached homes/townhouses, mostly one-story. Their target is 55 and over but not limited to that age group. There is an HOA for the neighborhood. Mr. DeRue noted that the price range is hard to pin down. The townhomes that the same builder built in Pittsford sold for higher than expected as buyers customized them which drove the price up. This is not the goal for these townhomes but hard to determine what the price will be.

Wilshire Hill Subdivision is completing their last section. He addressed the note on the agenda of the tank spill and clean up that occurred during the beginning of the construction of the final section.

Mr. DeRue asked if there were any other projects that the Environmental Board had questions about.

Board Member Marcellus asked about the status of the Terraces at Cloverwood Senior Living Facility that would include the demolition of the old Crystal Barn. Mr. DeRue explained that the demo of the Crystal Barn is scheduled for this year or next year, but explained that the plan is to start construction of the new building sometime in spring of next year. He noted that they have over \$300,000 in landscaping for the completed project which is very high for projects that have come through the Planning Board.

Board Member Weisbeck questioned the house being built on Calkins Road. It appears that most of the trees on the area they are building the house on have been removed and she is curious on how they were allowed to do that. Mr. DeRue explained that the Town has rules to be followed as to how construction is down, but no way to dictate the construction process. Board Member Weisbeck said she is not sure how many trees were cut down but it looks like there are no trees left. Mr. DeRue added that trees are a sensitive issue in the Town, and as there are codes for clear cutting lots that can be used but most residential lots don't really fall under that category. Board Member Weisbeck stated that some Towns do have codes pertaining to tress on residential properties and has worked in municipalities that do have residential codes pertaining to trees. It is not easy to regulate but the purpose it to protect and preserve home values and overall aesthetic value of the town.

Mr. DeRue said that establishing a code is possible, but that it can be a lose-lose situation. The Town tries to avoid that kind of code because every time they either approve or disapprove the removal of a tree someone is upset with the decision.

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully,

Jessica Yaeger
Secretary to the Environmental Board