

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD  
FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Heinzelman, Jim Pippin, Caroline Kilmer, Jackie Ebner, Ethan Greene, Audrey Clignett

**ABSENT:** Julie Marcellus, Jerremy Lorch

**OTHERS PRESENT:** April Zurowski, Planning Assistant; Anna Piazza, Building Department Assistant; Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 5

Chairman Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

**CHAIRMAN UPDATES:** Steve Heinzelman, Chairman

Chairman Heinzelman discussed the new Board Member interviews that are scheduled for next week, stating that up to three new members can be accepted.

Board Member Kilmer discussed the County's Organics Management Plan and the survey sent out to assess public interest in it. She stated that part of the plan is to collect data on the appetite of the community for such a plan.

Chairman Heinzelman discussed social media posts on behalf of Board Member Lorch who could not be in attendance. He stated that Board Member Lorch has been in contact with Holly Jennings, the Town's Communication Assistant, and are discussing posts for invasive species month.

**INVASIVE SPECIES AND HERBICIDE TREATMENT PRESENTATION:** Color Pittsford Green

Laurie Konte and Sara Sutton, members of Color Pittsford Green, presented a proposal to use an herbicide treatment in combination with a Cut Stump Treatment method to remove invasive species of plants from the DeBlase Green Space located across from Thornell Road in Pittsford. This proposal was discussed recently at a Town Board meeting and Town Board Members requested the Environmental Board's recommendation for approval. Ms. Konte and Ms. Sutton stated that although they are members of Color Pittsford Green, they are not representing them.

Ms. Konte stated that the crowding of woody invasive plant species has overwhelmed the area and the intent with this treatment method is to make space for native plants. The Cut Stump Treatment method will entail cutting the invasive species down to a stump and then painting the stump with Round Up Custom which is then pulled into the root system to prevent new growth. Ms. Konte stated that this method is only effective in the Winter. Ms. Konte noted that the funds for this project will be provided by the Town and Town Board Member Townsend confirmed.

Town Board Member Townsend discussed the Town's efforts in reducing the pesticides used on Town-owned land and stated that this is why the Town Board is seeking the Environmental Board's recommendation for approval. Board Member Kilmer stated that she does not have an issue with the use of pesticides for this specific project and Board Members Greene and Pippin agreed.

Mary Moore, member of Color Pittsford Green, stated her opposition for the use of pesticides on Town-owned land. Ms. Moore discussed various negative effects that the use of pesticides could have; she stated that pesticides are poison that could harm wildlife in the area and suggested using an alternative method that does

## APPROVED MINUTES 020325

not involve using pesticides. Ms. Konte emphasized the necessity of using pesticides in this context and stated that other methods have not been successful. Board Member Kilmer agreed.

Chairman Heinzelman made a motion to give support of the project and Board Member Clignett seconded; all ayes, none opposed.

### **TOWN BOARD UPDATES:** Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

Town Board Member Townsend discussed the Town's Zoning Code update and requested that the Board Members bring their final questions to the next Zoning Code meeting in March. Town Board Member Townsend clarified that the part of the code being updated is relating to land use and is largely about lining up with the comprehensive plan. Ms. Zurowski advised which sections include changes and should be reviewed by the Board. She discussed specific revisions that would regulate solar and EV charging installations.

Board Member Clignett discussed the Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan and the document she created while reviewing it. The Board discussed possible ways to urge people to take actions such as campaigning and increased publicity. Town Board Member Townsend asked the Board to look at the section in the County's plan specific to towns and to think about which aspects could make sense for the Town of Pittsford. The Board discussed using Board Member Clignett's document as a 'shared document' to add each of their own comments and be able to review other member's comments as well. Board Member Kilmer inquired about hiring a third-party person to review the plan and possible grant opportunities to fund it. Board Member Ebner reminded the Board that the Climate Smart Community grant only runs May through July of 2025. Town Board Member Townsend stated that before speaking with any third-party person, the Board will need to go through Spencer Bernard, Chief of Staff.

### **PLANNING BOARD/STAFF UPDATES:** April Zurowski, Planning Assistant

April Zurowski, Planning Assistant, stated that the Pittsford Oaks application received preliminary approval from the Planning Board. The project is now appearing before the Design Review Historic Preservation Board.

On behalf of Paul Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works, Ms. Zurowski discussed LED lighting upgrades at the Highway Department, Town parking lots, Town lighting districts being updated, and the interest in adding solar panels to the Pittsford Library. Ms. Zurowski also discussed the Town's interest in conducting a fleet assessment. The focus will be on light-duty and medium-duty vehicles because the electrification of larger heavy-duty vehicles has not been fully developed yet. She discussed challenges specific to the Town of Pittsford, particularly that the Town does not own the parking lot behind Town Hall where most of the light-duty vehicles are parked. Board Member Ebner recommended that the Town consider evaluating landscaping equipment as well.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 6, 2025

Board Member Clignett motioned to approve the minutes of January 6, 2025, with Board Member Kilmer's change, as recommended, seconded by Board Member Pippin. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT:** Steve Heinzelman, Chairman

Chairman Steve Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anna Piazza  
Building Department Assistant