APPROVED MINUTES 030325

TOWN OF PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MARCH 03, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Pippin, Caroline Kilmer, Jackie Ebner, Ethan Greene, Audrey Clignett, Julie Marcellus, Jerremy Lorch, Kathryn Kosinski, Jeanne Powers, Leixi Chen

ABSENT: Steve Heinzelman

OTHERS PRESENT: April Zurowski, Planning Assistant; Anna Piazza, Building Department Assistant;

Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 7

Board Member Pippin opened the meeting at 7:01PM.

CHAIRMAN UPDATES:

Because Chairman Heinzelman was absent, Board Member Pippin welcomed new Board Members Kathryn Kosinski, Jeanne Powers, and Student Member Leixi Chen. The new members introduced themselves to the current members and Town staff.

April Zurowski, Planning Assistant, asked the Board to update the member contact sheet.

Board Member Kilmer informed the Board that she was unable to attend last month's Environmental Management Council (EMC) meeting and will send the meeting notes to everyone once she receives them. Board Member Ebner stated that she is the alternative to attend the EMC meetings if Board Member Kilmer cannot attend

Board Member Lorch discussed the Board's social media posts and stated that Holly Jennings, Communication Assistant, is looking to do around two posts per month. He stated that Ms. Jennings proposed a schedule going forward using the remainder of the images/posts that the Board already produced. Board Member Lorch stated that he will maintain the google sheet that he started to keep track of the posts and asked for one or two Board Members to commit to each the posts each month.

TOWN BOARD UPDATES: Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

Board Members Audrey Clignett and Jackie Ebner presented and discussed creating a Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Town. Board Member Ebner stated that the Town Board recently adopted a Municipal Climate Action Plan. Board Member Townsend stated that the Town does not have much available staff time but will likely be able to help with public outreach, but the Board will be responsible for the drafting and division of tasks. Board Member Ebner stated that hiring a consultant to help with the plan is too high of a cost and suggested that the Board do what they can with the resources that they have.

Board Members Clignett and Ebner discussed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory already completed and noted that residential and commercial emissions are the largest contributors. Board Member Ebner discussed the CCAP drafting process. She suggested that the Board use the Town of Brighton CCAP as a reference.

Board Member Kilmer asked if the Town would provide any additional resources to them in the future, such as a consultant. Town Board Member Townsend stated that it would depend on the timing of the request and noted that it would need to go into next year's budget.

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Board Member Clignett discussed involving stakeholders, such as Color Pittsford Green. Board Member Ebner asked for commitment from members, and she agreed to draft a suggested work plan to divide tasks. Board Member Kilmer suggested that if the project is split into smaller bites, members will be more likely to commit.

Town Board Member Townsend discussed the draft Zoning Code and noted that all members have shared their input on the sections relating to environmental issues. Board Member Kilmer previous comments that she did not see in the most recent draft. She noted that some aspects of the parking regulations, that was added per the Board's recommendation, had been removed. Town Board Member Townsend stated that this may have been relocated to a different section of the code.

Board Member Pippin noted that the parking section relating to raised curbs versus cut curbs had been removed and discussed common drainage issues that come from having raised curbs. Ms. Zurowski suggested this might be better as a guideline rather than as a requirement in the code. She stated that certain suggested code additions cannot be met without redevelopment and that adopting code that puts existing sites into non-conformance is not ideal.

Ms. Zurowski discussed new regulations for solar panels and noted that it is important that the Planning Board be able to determine the best location for ground-mounted solar installations. Board Member Pippin asked if the code would permit battery storage. Ms. Zurowski stated that it is not listed as permitted. Board Member Kilmer asked why the section about electric vehicle chargers was added and Ms. Zurowski stated that it was because the current code does not contain regulations on it.

Town Board Member Townsend stated that the public hearing to discuss and approve the new Zoning Code will be on March 18th and is anticipated to carry over to March 27th before adoption.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 03, 2025

Board Member Pippin motioned to approve the minutes of February 03, 2025, as submitted, seconded by Board Member Marcellus. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved. None opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Jim Pippin, Board Member

Board Member Pippin adjourned the meeting at 8:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Piazza
Building Department Assistant