

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Heinzelman, Caroline Kilmer, Ethan Greene, Kathryn Kosinski, Julie Marcellus, Jeanne Powers, Jim Pippin

ABSENT: Jackie Ebner, Audrey Clignett, Jerremy Lorch

OTHERS PRESENT: Patricia Keating, Building Department Assistant; April Zurowski, Planning Assistant; Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison; Leixi Chen, Student Member

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 20

Chairman Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:05PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Board Member Kilmer motioned to approve the minutes of August 4, 2025, and October 6, 2025, as submitted, seconded by Board Member Heinzelman. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

ONGOING UPDATES:

Board Member Kilmer provided updates regarding the Environmental Management Council (EMC). She summarized a presentation given to the EMC from the Genesee Valley Audubon Society regarding bird strikes. She shared details regarding why birds fly into windows and ways to prevent this from happening, including using films that can be adhered to your windows to reduce reflection and complying with Dark Sky legislation. Board Member Kilmer stated that the number one cause of bird deaths is due to cats, not bird strikes. The Audubon Society urged people to keep their cats indoors.

The Board members discussed the Dark Sky initiative. Ms. Zurowski stated the Town of Pittsford is Dark Sky compliant. Members noted that a resident education program regarding this topic would be beneficial to help individual residents to understand the importance of the Dark Sky initiative. Chairman Heinzelman stated that he received Student Member Chen comments for the Town Board regarding the environmental impacts of street lighting. He will review the comments and forward the completed document to Town Board Member Townsend.

TOWN BOARD UPDATES:

Town Board Member Townsend provided updates regarding the Barker Road and Mendon/Thornell sidewalk projects. Both sidewalk projects have been completed. These sidewalks help to complete the Town Active Transportation Plan. Two additional sidewalk projects are planned for 2026.

Town Board Member Townsend stated that the public hearing on the budget opens on Wednesday, November 5. She noted that the budget includes a pilot tree planting program. The program would be a cost sharing initiative between residents and the Town. Trees would be planted in the right-of-way along routes throughout the Town, but especially along routes to schools. Town Board Member Townsend detailed the positive effects of tree-lined streets and stated that the Town would pick the tree species and specific locations to mitigate issues with roots causing infrastructure damage.

PLANNING BOARD/STAFF UPDATES:

Ms. Zurowski stated that work continues at Pittsford Oaks. The demolition phase was completed. The developer implemented changes regarding tree types and placement that had been recommended by the Board. Some easement changes were also made. The final plans should be signed soon with a pre-construction meeting planned within the next few weeks.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE:

Board Member Kosinski shared information about Section 1 of the Community Climate Action Plan: Transportation. Board Member Kosinski asked the Board members for any comments about the proposed action items, including ideas that should be excluded from consideration. She asked for additional proposals as well.

Board Member Kilmer stated that many of the ideas presented required some sort of resident education. She noted that we are limited to social media, the Town website and mailings. Many of the proposals would require assistance from Monroe County and/or New York State to educate residents. Board Member Kilmer stated that several of the proposed actions are beyond the Town's purview (e.g. Pittsford Central School District proposals). Town Board Member Townsend stated that the Town does not have decision making power when it comes to the School District, but that the Town Board does work in conjunction with the School District Sustainability Board on some projects (e.g. sports fields). Ms. Keating suggested that the new youth arm of the EMC could communicate with the School District Sustainability Board regarding Community Climate Action Plan ideas.

Board Member Kilmer also asked if data was collected regarding how much public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations were used. Ms. Zurowski stated that the Department of Public Works (DPW) collects that data. Ms. Zurowski also stated that there are incentives for new commercial developers to install EV charging stations through the Town's updated Zoning Code. These parking spaces are not counted in the total impervious coverage for parking lots.

Board Member Heinzelman suggested physically separated bicycle lanes and/or combined lanes as a beneficial addition.

Town Board Member Townsend provided details about bus services provided through the Regional Transit Service (RTS) for the Pittsford area. A majority of the Town does not currently have a designated bus line, but On Demand Transit services are provided through RTS to a larger portion of the Town. Town Board Member Townsend recommends that this service be promoted more.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Steve Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 7:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Keating
Building Department Assistant