

**Town of Pittsford Environmental Board
MINUTES
May 6, 2024**

Minutes of the Town of Pittsford Environmental Board meeting held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7:00PM local time. The meeting took place in the Lower-Level Meeting Room of Pittsford Town Hall, 11 S. Main Street.

PRESENT: Steve Heinzelman, Chairman; Jim Pippin; Ethan Greene; Jerremy Lorch; Julie Marcellus; Aubrey Clignett

ABSENT: Jackie Ebner; Caroline Kilmer

ALSO PRESENT: April Zurowski, Planning Assistant; Meghan Brooks, Building Department Assistant; Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

ATTENDANCE: There was 1 member of the public present.

Environmental Board Chairman Steve Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION:

Rachel Scudder of the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council stated that the Environmental Board had received a draft copy of the Climate Action Plan and asked if any of the members have any comments on it. Board Chairman Heinzelman asked how the greenhouse gas estimate was produced. Ms. Scudder responded that it was a model made by a consultant utilizing a set of assumptions. Chairman Heinzelman suggested showing the assumptions in the report. Ms. Scudder stated that they normally are not publicized, but at a minimum can certainly be shared with the Board.

Chairman Heinzelman asked what the thinking was behind the building envelope section because the savings estimate seemed a little aggressive. Ms. Scudder stated that it is supposed to be generalized to give readers an idea of what could potentially happen when certain actions are taken.

Board Member Jim Pippin stated that he agreed with Board Member Jackie Ebner's emailed comments, especially regarding definitions and acronyms. He added that he feels they need to be more consistent and easier for the layperson to understand, and that the mapping data should focus more on Pittsford.

Chairman Heinzelman asked how the measures were prioritized. Ms. Scudder stated that the prioritization came from discussions with Town staff. Town Board Liaison Stephanie Townsend noted that the priorities had originally been organized by projected timelines. Planning Assistant April Zurowski stated that some items on the plan cannot happen overnight and that the staff is very aware of what is on the plan currently.

Chairman Heinzelman asked why the actions would be made at the department level. Ms. Scudder responded that it is to ensure that the decisions are coming from the people who know

each department best rather than as a broad oversight. Board Liaison Townsend added that some elements of the plan are already in progress.

Board Member Audrey Clignett suggested developing the “why” of the Climate Action Plan further, such as noting the cost of repairs. There was extensive discussion on the damage numbers and why Pittsford appears to be so high on the list. It was noted that if accurate numbers are not given by other townships, it skews the data. Board Member Jeremy Lorch suggested that it is potentially more beneficial to turn that data into a descriptive sentence, which could be broader and more accurately reflect the Town’s data rather than comparing it.

There was some discussion about Greenprint following Board Member Pippin’s suggestion that it be reassessed in the current day.

Board Liaison Townsend stated that she does love the plan overall and feels it has been crafted in a clear and accessible way. Board Member Lorch offered his services for editing. The Board agreed on a timeline of reviews between this meeting and the next.

CHAIRMAN UPDATES:

Ms. Zurowski stated that she forwarded the Board an email regarding the Monroe County Climate Action Plan. As Board Members Caroline Kilmer and Jackie Ebner were not present, there were no further updates about the Environmental Management Council.

Board Member Lorch stated that they have not yet collected a lot of posts for social media and are working on developing an efficient method of sharing them with the Town’s Communications Department.

TOWN BOARD UPDATES:

Board Liaison Townsend shared that Pittsford recently received a grant to design solar for the roof of the library. She added that here are also several projects currently underway around Town, including the East Street and Mendon Road sidewalks.

PLANNING BOARD/STAFF UPDATES:

Ms. Zurowski stated that Board Members Clignett and Pippin came to the Earth Day event on Monday, April 22. There was a decent turn out, and assorted materials were given to the library to pass out following the event.

Ms. Zurowski gave an overview of Coventry Ridge Section 3 plan, which is currently under review by the Town. She stated that it will consist of 16 lots along a loop road. There is a maintenance pathway to the pond on the current plan, but the Town is currently seeking commentary from the Parks & Recreation Board about the implementation of a trail, which had been on the original concept plans. The Environmental Board expressed the strong opinion that a trail should be kept on the plans.

Board Liaison Townsend noted that the Town Board is continuing the public hearing for Pittsford Oaks on Tuesday, May 7. Once a resolution has been passed, the application will then go to the Planning Board, who will then once again seek commentary from the Environmental Board during its review process.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Environmental Board Member Julie Marcellus made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024, seconded by Environmental Board Member Jeremy Lorch. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Environmental Board Chairman Steve Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Brooks
Building Department Assistant

OFFICIAL MINUTES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE PLANNING
DEPARTMENT