

Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission

Minutes approved Sept 28

Meeting 17 August 2017 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Attending: Ken Blom, co-chair; Linda Beauregard, Charlie Dake, co-chair, Casey Holtzworth, Rosemary Jensen, Dan McIntyre

Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were approved and sent to the town clerk.

Contact Reports:

Town Board: Aug 10 (from agenda)

- (1) Unsafe building: 7 Lake Desolation Rd.
- (2) Report from Code Revision Comm. (Charlie) Focus is still on Open Development.
- (3) Brookhaven Monthly Report

ZBA Aug 1

- (1) Cohen Rd (Conlon) Area Variance (6ft) to build a mudroom attached to an existing carport with 44 ft. of clearance, when 50 ft. is required. Public Hearing brought no comments. ZBA granted the permit; no environmental or physical damage is anticipated.
- (2) Tannery Hill Rd (Heritage) Area Variance extension and Special Use Permit to continue living in a mobile home while building continues. The previous permits will expire on 2 Aug, 2017. Both permits were extended. The mobile home must be removed 60 days after Certificate of Occupancy is issued for the new house.
- (3) NYS Rte 9N (Jenks) Area Variance to install ground mounted solar on a .83 Ac lot, when 3 Ac are required. The front of the property is shady and collectors will be placed in the sunny back part. Photos are requested and a public hearing is set for 5 Sept.
- (4) Sand Hill Rd (Gaschel) Area Variance to install ground mounted solar where only 53 ft of frontage exists and 150 ft are required. An aerial map is requested and a public hearing is set for 5 Sept.
- (5) Squashville Rd. (Vanderzee, Over the Hedges Farm) Area variance. Procedure is postponed until: SEQRA is completed by PB, Power of Attorney forms are completed, and updated wetlands delineation maps are completed. Applicant is directed to the PB workshop meeting on 8 Aug.
- (6) Lester Park Rd (Szpak) Area Variance to add a carport to an existing garage which lacks 15 ft of clearance to the boundary. Photos are requested and a public hearing is set for 5 Sept.

Planning Board No report

Correspondence

- (1) One Environmental Survey2016. Share Survey2015 results with new members

- (2) EC sent a recommendation to PB on 26 July to appoint Casey Holtzworth to EC. Appointment was made by TB. on 10 Aug.
- (3) Received a note from Vince that pesticide Dicamba (Monsanto) has been banned in Missouri, Arkansas, and Tennessee because it damages neighboring crops.
- (4) Saratoga PLAN is hosting a Canal Trail Bike Ride, from Schuylerville to Hudson Falls on Aug 20.
- (5) Researchers in Netherlands find predators like foxes reduce incidence of tick-borne diseases, perhaps by limiting the mobility of mice. The number of mice wasn't reduced in the study area with more foxes than the area with less but the occurrence of Lyme disease was reduced.

Town Parks: No report

Adopt-a-Roadside: Theresa is working on the draft of her annual letter this week.

New business:

- (1) Capital District Transit Commission (CDTC) made a presentation to the combined boards in August.
- a. Public employees, established 1964 to assist State DOTs
 - b. Provide:
 - 1. Training by consultants and grants.
 - 2. Technical assistance grants \$5000 to \$10000
 - 3. Help building bridges, paths, roads, ride-share technologies
 - 4. Collect data, build computer models
 - 5. Linkage between municipal projects, search catalog of all projects
 - 6. Form-based coding assistance when revising codes with pictures to clarify descriptions

We visited CDTC Website to find examples of the above.

- c. Concepts included: Environmental Justice, Protect sensitive environmental resources (include ground water?) Environmental effects of CDTC programs, Title VI Task Force
- d. Studies include: Air quality changes 2005-2014 in Capital Area, Capital Area Impaired Water Bodies (including Sacandaga L. and Upper Hudson R.).

Question 1: Could CDTC help our proposal that Greenfield include a hydrogeology study to protect our well water, as part of Town next revising its Comprehensive Plan?

Question 2: Could the CDTC help us define Open Development by focusing on the increased roads, driveways, increased traffic, culverts, and habitat fragmentation's effects on wildlife (including ticks and lyme disease), all resulting from increased development?

(2) Continued discussion of EC proposal for a hydrogeologic study of the town's water resources, when the Comprehensive Plan is revised. *Since most of us drink the ground water, we hope to protect it beyond the general State and National standards as the Town grows and*

develops. Recent ideas include: Casey's description of Moreau L. study, and possible CDTC assistance.

(5) We will draft a recommendation to PB about the latest Prestwick PUD and circulate it to EC members next week. Prestwick should provide an independent water study to show that their plans would not substantially increase the drain on Greenfield's aquifers. The PUD shows waste water drained into the City of Saratoga sewer system and not be returned to the aquifer. We recommend that County Sewer service should be balanced with County Water Supply, as we did for the recently proposal at the Polo Grounds. Reportedly, Stewarts' water study prompted them to seek County Water for their factory in Greenfield.

(3) A hydrologic study by USGS in 1988 analyzed the ground-water resources in eight 7.5 minute quadrangles in Saratoga County. They found that low elevation sections, with as much as 300 feet of underground gravel, had sufficient ground water available to support subdivisions and apartment complexes. However, higher elevations, with less productive bedrock aquifers, support primarily domestic use. Industry uses the more productive surface-water sources.

Next Meeting: 28 September 2017

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 PM