

**Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission**                      **Minutes** approved 20 April  
**Meeting 16 March 2017** at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:06 PM.

**Attending:** Ken Blom, Co-chair; Charlie Dake, Co-chair; Rosemary Jensen, Dan McIntyre, Vince Walsh, member-emeritus Vern Utter

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

**Contact Reports:**

**Town Board:** Mar 9 (Charlie)

- (1) Saratoga Polo Project was discussed and the TB indicated lack of support for establishing a water district. A resident questioned whether the previous (2007) application is sufficient for the new proposal.
- (2) Code Revision Committee will request discussion at a meeting on April 6 of all Town committees. EC members are invited to participate in a discussion of common issues at 6:30 on April 6 in the Town Hall.
- (3) Spring Clean-up is scheduled for the Town Garage on April 1. No tires will be accepted.

**ZBA** Mar (No report)

**Planning Board** Feb 28            CANCELED

**Correspondence :**

- (1) Phone call from a Greenfield resident about disposing/recycling automotive solvents. We discussed creating a clearinghouse to help residents with unusual things to recycle to find recipients to accept their donations.
- (2) Phone call from a resident asking about attending future EC meetings.
- (3) E-mails to and from Prof George Shaw @ Union College about hydro-geologic studies in small towns.
- (4) Conversation with Dan Pemrick about costs and benefits of hydro-geologic studies done in other towns: Milton, Ballston, Wilton, Clifton Park, Germantown, Hurley.
- (5) Presentation by Bill McKibben at Union College on April 17, "The Adirondacks: Refuge in a Warming World?" More information at <northroc@union.edu>
- (6) Vern Utter brought a collection of archival documents for use of current EC members.

**Town Parks:** No report

**Adopt-a-Roadside:** No report

**New business:**

- (1) The Polo Grounds PUD; for which EC recommended a balanced plan of water supply coming to the site and wastewater leaving the site. TB has apparently decided against a Town Water District so water wells may need to be drilled to provide 45K gallons per day to the proposed new development.
- (2) 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. We will contact other townships that have invested in studies to learn about their costs and benefits.

(3) Vince brought an article reporting that South Glens Falls Village decided in September 2016 to ban any new wells in the village. They hope to preserve the aquifer under the village that is the village's primary water supply.

(4) Ken reported on tick research in the Lower Hudson Valley by Richard Ostfeld. The mouse population exploded in 2016 and Dutchess County has the highest rate of lyme infection in NYS. The study uses mouse tunnels with tick poison to treat mice and fungus that kills ticks on 100 properties for the next 5 years. The study will follow up by comparing the frequency of medical treatments in the treated properties to surrounding ones.

(5) Roundup (Glyphosate) is now considered a likely cancer risk, according to NPR, Mar 2017. EC has discussed the safety of Roundup for several years, because it is probably sprayed by NYSDOT near wetlands in Greenfield.

**Next Meeting:** 20 April 2017

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:10 PM