

Meeting May 16, 2013: at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order.

Present: LaVern Utter (acting Chairman), Michael Getz, Dan McIntyre, Vince Walsh, Theresa Ellsworth

Minutes: of the April meeting

Contact reports:

Town Board Skidmore College proposes to place solar panels on six acres on Denton Rd. behind the baseball fields. Environmental concerns: (1) site plan is needed to determine exact location of the project, (2) protection of wetlands and stream during construction (3) mitigation of impact on neighbors.

Zoning Board of Appeals (1) Dennison, Brigham Rd. plans to construct a Doggie Day Care Center. More information is needed. (2) Cornell, S. Greenfield Rd. area variance for a 3-lot subdivision was approved.

Planning Board (1) Shishik, Wilton Rd. has applied to build a distillery. Odors could potentially become environmental concerns. (2) Barrett, Wilton Rd. has applied to add a microwave dish, two radios and two feed lines to existing microwave tower. The project was approved with no public hearing. Environmental concerns: Increase in amperage, approval without public hearing. (3) New Cingular Wireless, S. Greenfield Rd. applied to expand the existing cell tower. The project was approved without a public hearing. Environmental concerns: Increased weight and radio waves, approval without public hearing. (4) Bruchac, Middle Line Rd. applied to expand the present Special Use Permit to add a year-around after-school program. Planning Board members will hear comments from neighbors at the public hearing about the impact of the present Special Use permit had on the neighborhood. (5) Skidmore College, Daniels Rd. has applied to create a Composting Facility. Environmental Concerns: drainage toward wetland; will a catch basin be constructed on site? (6) Prestwick Chase, Daniels Rd. has applied to expand the facility. Environmental concerns: traffic increase on Daniels and Denton Rd., increased use of fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, need for drainage plan.

Zoning Administration: No report

Saratoga Water Quality Committee: No report

Adopt-A-Roadside Program Three new designations have been installed by the highway department. Daniels Rd. has a new facilitator - one of Greenfield's youths with the assistance of her family. Commission members expressed their gratitude that the younger members of our community are becoming involved in the program.

Town Parks: Ken Blom walked the Porter Corners Nature Trail on May 11. His report is attached below.

New business: Clear cutting on Daniels Rd was discussed. The amount of acreage being cleared and filled is apparently within town limits. Members expressed concerns for impacts on nearby wetlands.

Attachment:

RE: Report on Porter Corners Nature Trail
TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Ken Blom
DATE: 11 May 2013

1. The clean-up at the Porter Corners Nature Trail occurred at 10:AM this morning, as planned. Four shopping bags of trash were collected. About 30% by volume consisted of recyclable containers. Four of them could have yielded 5-cent deposits if turned in. The remainder was mostly plastic and paper food wrappers.

2. The bridge is currently functional. It has been moved by floodwaters about 6 feet downstream from its intended location where it is now wedged against trees and will probably stay. The steps are missing on the western end, and the steps on the eastern end have been rotated upside-down. They are stable in that position with no exposed nail-ends. The south-side railing has three open joints where rails have separated from posts because the screws have pulled free under strain of the flood. Those stripped screws can be replaced with bolts.

Immediate repairs: I will do that repair later in May using (6) 1/2" x 3 1/2" carriage bolt-nut-washers and hand tools.

Long-term prediction: The stream-side of the bridge is jammed with several tons of tree trunks and cobbles deposited by recent high water. Since that is the outside of a curve of the stream bed, I predict that sand will continue to be removed and heavier materials will continue to be deposited in annual flood cycles. Occasional extreme floods will place tremendous pressure on that side of the bridge that will counteract our short-term repairs.