

Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission
Meeting 28 May 2015

Minutes approved June 18

at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Attending: Ken Blom, Chair; Linda Beauregard, Kathy Bozony, Charlie Dake, Theresa Ellsworth, Nancy Kmen, Dan McIntyre, Vince Walsh

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

Contact Reports:

Town Board Apr 9:

- (1) TB appoints 4 new members to EC.
- (2) Code Revision Comm. Has been discussing 14+ items. Recommend meeting every 2 years instead of 6-7 years.
- (3) NYS Tax Cap Freeze will require cutting 1% (\$13,000) from the budget next year. Much of that will be met by reducing utility costs.
- (4) The blue house next door, belonging to the Town, needs repairs and a long-term plan.
- (5) Some of the Town's baseball diamonds are not being used. Greenfield has no Little League of its own but plays with West Side of Saratoga. Only travel teams come here to play, where no concession stand is available.
- (6) Unsafe buildings identified at: 491 Allen Rd (barn), 61 Plank Rd (mobile home), 23 Frasier Rd (mobile home), and 4119 NYS Rte 9N (barn). Public hearings will be scheduled

May 14: (Charlie) (1) Reported on 115 tons of trash collected at the town-wide clean-up.

- (2) More than 200 Resident Cards have been issued.
- (3) Junk yard permit renewal is discussed.

ZBA Apr 7:

- (1) Liberty Drive (Harris) Application for area variance has been tabled because the property has changed hands. Discussion about the fire history on the property and current label of the area over the garage as an additional bedroom.
- (2) Middle Grove Rd (Stewarts) and Rte 9N (Stewarts) have applied for variances to replace old signs with newer models. The sizes will change and the illumination will change.

May 5:

- (1) Brandell Lane (Guay) application for a area variance for an in-law apartment. The lot is 1.1 Ac and would legally need to be 1.8 Ac larger. Public hearing set for June 2.
- (2) 311 Miner Rd (Gates) application for an area variance to build a new home. The rear setback would be only 10 ft. The property is bordered by stone walls and woods. A public hearing is set for June 2.
- (3) Liberty Drive (Harris) Area variance denied because the property has changed owners.
- (4) Middle Grove Rd (Stewarts) and Rte 9N (Stewarts) area variance applications tabled and public hearings set for June 2. New information is available about: timers for the canopy light, maximum height of the freestanding sign, and dimmer settings for the LED lights.
- (5) Bump Hill Rd (Zeh) Area variance is approved, reducing setbacks by: 8 ft side, 15 ft rear, and 1 ft front yard. It was judged they would cause no environmental damage.

Planning Board Apr 28:

- (1) Rte 9N (Bacigalupo) Application to extend temporary use permit to permanent. Many changes have been made and documented: screening, noise reduction, and limited hours of use.
- (2) Daniels Rd (Sondhoff) Application to expand size of planned horse surgery from 3325 sq ft to 5000 sq ft. Questions are asked about sewer, parking, driveway. This will be discussed with the Town engineer.
- (3) Middle Grove Rd and 9N (Stewarts) PB has no concerns about the size of the signs but is concerned about the internal illumination and potential glare on neighbors.
- (4) Plank Rd (Evans) request permanent approval on shared driveways, now completed. PB replies that it can't do that; the driveway will be subject to inspection with each new construction along it. Also, the driveways should be un-named, to prevent misinterpreting them as roads in the future.

May 12:

- (1) Rte 9N (Bacigalupo) PB granted a permanent Special Use Permit for a large contractor's storage yard.
- (2) Discussion about tremendous amount of clearing and dumping on Daniels Rd (R. Daniels). The owner has been issued violations, been to court, been fined, DEC is imposing sanctions but they haven't worked yet. The Code Enforcement officer refers complaint to DEC.
- (3) Old Stone Ridge does not appear to have any tree-planting going on. Town has not received the bond from the owner. New building permits will not be issued until the contingencies are met.

Correspondence

- (1) Working drafts of Code Revision Committee's work has been forwarded from Nancy.
- (2) Phone conversation with Town Supervisor, Paul Lunde telling us that the Corinth Nuclear Waste Plan is currently off the table.
- (3) Several Environmental Activity Surveys have been mailed to Town Hall, probably from Theresa's Adopt-a-Highway contacts.

Town Parks (Theresa) EC members cleaned and surveyed the Nature Trail on 2 May. The bridge was straightened. Some fallen trees have since been removed and some brush has been cut, as requested. She will request more cutting and mowing in targeted areas. A few replacement plant signs are being ordered.

Adopt-a-Roadside (Theresa) Reported the annual letter to participants has been sent, a few replacement signs are being planned, and an associate who can work with her this year is being sought.

New business:

- (1) Long-term planning on topics for potential community projects:
 - (a) Roadside vegetation <pollinators.org> website as a resource for members
 - (b) The Environmental Action Survey (Dec 2014) early returns (N=29).
- (2) Nancy described the Code-Revision procedure, underway.

(3) Dan reported on two experimental tick controls.

(a) *Metarhizium* is a soil fungus that attacks ticks and occurs naturally in many locations. It can be introduced locally as powdered spores, somewhat like using Milky Spore to control Japanese beetles.

(b) Cedar oil has been sprayed to kill ticks, using the natural chemicals developed by cedar trees.

(4) Some members have visited the Brookhaven trails and more plan to. Discussion about recreational uses for the woodland and desired limits on such uses are begun.

(5) Plans will be made for Breakfast with Vern. Members will be notified soon.

Next Meeting: 18 Jun 2015

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM