

Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission **Minutes approved 16 Nov**
Meeting 19 October 2017 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Attending: Ken Blom, co-chair; Linda Beauregard, Casey Holtzworth, Vince Walsh

Minutes: Minutes from the September meeting will be processed at the November 16 meeting, approved and sent to the town clerk.

Contact Reports:

Town Board: Oct 12 (Vince)

- (1) Open Development - Fitzgerald
- (2) Greene Rd (Chris Yarsevich) A resident described development on Greene Rd that looks very crowded because several building lots are very deep and narrow, changing the rural nature of the community.
- (3) Discussion - Benefits of solar speed limit signs.

ZBA: Oct 3 (From agenda)

- (1) Andrew Lally case # 990 Area Variance
- (2) Kevin Bailey (Sharon Jenkins) case # 987 Area Variance
- (3) Kevin Bailey (Matthew and Kristina Gashel) case #988 Area Variance

Planning Board Sept 26

(1) Squashville Rd (VenDerZee) Open development

The application proposes an easement across a pre-existing subdivided lot #3 on Squashville Rd. through National Grid property, to a land-locked parcel in the back. Lots #2 and #3 have been issued driveway permits by the Town Highway Dept. The applicant has provided a long form and short form SEQRA. PB recommends approval based on: no significant environmental impact, driveways have been approved, and access across National Grid property has been documented.

(2) Plank Rd (Evans) Open development

The applicant provided a letter from an engineer that the old bridge can be made safe. His attorney has provided a letter that he has right-of-way to the property across the old abandoned Plank Rd. The applicant states that the Town plows used to cross the old bridge to turn around, but do not anymore. PB discussed whose responsibility the bridge is: the builder or the land-owner. PB resolves that Open Development could be recommended to TB, provided the steel bridge is repaired for fire trucks and the entry drive is sufficient for fire trucks and emergency response vehicles, as prerequisites.

(3) Porter Corners Rd (Saraspa Rod & Gun Club) Site Plan Review

Letters were received after the previous meeting supporting the Club's proposal and clarifying previous comments. PB reported from the Saturday site-visit. Discussion included: possibility of fill from Stewarts' factory project to build berms, posting the 75 acres across the road, noise produced by paper or steel target backings, sound levels of rifles and shotguns, shooting heard from miles away, number of members (1100 now, up from 200 in 1984), bullet damage on Bockes Rd. investigated by State Police. The proposed new hours of operation become 9:00AM -

8:00PM. Skeet shooting would be 6:00PM - 9:00PM Tue and Wed. and from 9:00- 2:00 on Sunday. PB discussed noise level along the path of National Grid clearing, proposed dirt berms, and alternate hours if shooting gets rained out. Public Hearing brought comments: against increased hours, increased noise when two events coincide, who approved the tree-cutting that reduced cover. PB continued to discuss: people shooting other places in Greenfield, flexibility of hours when weather intrudes, parking on adjoining land rather than road shoulder, noise along power line clearing, and Club rep. taking suggestion to the Club Board.

Note: EC questions lead-abatement plans on the site, to mitigate the effect of lead entering the groundwater.

(4) Denton Rd (Prestwick Chase) PUD Amendment

No rep was present for the applicant. A letter to the applicant from the Town Attorney was discussed to assure presence on Oct 31 and informing applicant that the SEQRA will be re-opened.

Note: EC's comprehensive list of recommendations was sent to PB on 11 Oct, based on the probable re-opening of SEQRA.

Oct 10

(1) Old Stone Ridge (Witt Construction) Site Plan Review PB received a letter from Cornell Cooperative Extension to forward to the Code Enforcement Officer. PB can make a recommendation to TB about use of the bond fund if necessary to repair the damaged forest.

(2) Porter Corners Rd. (Saraspa Rod & Gun) Site Plan Review

Discussion about building berms to mitigate noise, cost of maintaining berms, responsibility to post the Club land against hunting and the cost of maintaining signs, and the possibility of having two dark days with no shooting. The suggestions will be discussed by the Club Board.

(3) 464 Maple Ave (Maple Ave LLC) Site Plan Review

PB approves the application, reasoning that the solar collectors on the roof will not be visible to neighbors and the SEQRA shows no environmental danger.

(4) Rte 9N (Jenkins) High Peaks Solar: Special Use Permit

A public hearing is set for Oct 31 after discussion about the information that will be needed by PB to make a decision.

(5) Sand Hill Rd. (Gashel) High Peaks Solar: Special Use Permit

PB set a Public Hearing for October 31. The applicant expressed unsureness about the regulations for ground-mount and roof-mount collectors. PB responded that no board needs to approve a roof-mount solar collector.

(6) Discussion of Planning Office function, related to PB. Applicants seem to be missing information when they apply to PB. Perhaps more education before the biweekly meetings can reduce some of their frustrations.

Correspondence We delivered a comprehensive list of recommendations to PB about the latest Prestwick PUD on 11 Oct.

Town Parks: No report

Adopt-a-Roadside: (Theresa) Theresa brought a draft of her annual thank you to participants, to which she's planning to attach the Town's article acknowledging their efforts in the PennySaver.

New business:

(1) Discussion of the Survey (2015, 2016). Should we revise and continue the survey, develop a second step, seek community volunteers to address issues like minimizing road salt, community composting, minimizing open development, etc? Perhaps a public presentation of the current results could share residents' responses with other community members.

(2) Discussion of invasive plants that are spreading, including Phragmites, Japanese knot weed, and others working their way up the Hudson Valley. A requirement to compost soil before moving it from one construction site to another could help contain the spread.

(3) Casey described a project at the State Park to eradicate Japanese knot weed, which is spreading up the Kayadeross creek.

(4) Vince described the success of Charlie's Palmertown website for spreading community information. It may be a useful tool for distributing information, like our Survey.

(5) Vince shared a report on one community's efforts to restore Ivy Island in L. Luzern.

(6) We will draft a recommendation to PB that lead abatement plans become one of the provisions of the SaraSpa Site Plan Review.

(7) 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: Casey's description of Moreau L. study, possible CDTC assistance, and hydrologic study by USGS in 1988 analyzed the ground-water resources in Saratoga County.

Next Meeting: 16 November 2017

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM