

**Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting 21 April 2016**

**Minutes** approved May 19

at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:02 PM.

**Attending:** Linda Beauregard, Ken Blom, Chair; Kathy Bozony, Charlie Dake, Theresa Ellsworth, Dan McIntyre, Nancy Kmen, Vince Walsh, Walt Barss; Highway Supt.

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

**Contact Reports:**

**Town Board :** Apr 7 Annacrest Dr. (Barney) Public Hearing of Board of Health to consider a septic variance. Variance was approved and it was suggested that homeowners test neighbors' water for one year. **Note:** The proximity to a drinking water well could be cause for EC concern.

Apr 14: (agenda)

ZBA referral about Evans subdivision on Plank Rd

**ZBA Apr 5:**

(1) Plank Rd (Evans) Discussion continues on best approach for driveways to 9(+?) lots with very little total frontage on Plank Rd. ZBA will assess the safety issues such as road frontage and fire truck access. TB will address the open development question, requiring a change of Town Code. PB addressed the original request to subdivide the property.

(2) Locust Grove Rd. (Barchuk) Area variance is approved for a 20' separation between house and garage. Access was desired to the back yard to maintain the septic system. No environmental effects are reported.

(3) Allen Rd. (Jason) Area variance was granted to build the house 15' closer to the road. It matches the neighboring house, trees form a natural buffer, and no environmental effects are seen.

**Planning Board Mar 29:**

(1) Middle Grove Rd. (Jordan) Application is made to subdivide a lot of 8.32 Ac. into 3 lots. One lot would have a driveway onto Hyspot Rd. Public hearing is set for Apr 12.

(2) North Broadway (Skidmore College) Application to convert a house and a carriage house into office spaces. Parking for 44 cars already exists nearby so handicap access will be only thing to add. Public hearing is set for Apr 12.

(3) North Creek Rd. (Keyzer) A plan to subdivide into 4 lots of 3.3Ac each. Driveway plans are submitted. A question about a stream is answered as a drainage gully with no water. Public hearing is scheduled for April 12.

**April 12:**

(1) Squashville Rd. (Rosenberg) Preliminary subdivision proposal was presented.

(2) Middle Grove Rd (Jordan) Minor subdivision was granted for two additional lots at the corner of Hyspot Rd.

(3) North Broadway (Skidmore College) Van Patten House, Van Patten Carriage House site plan was approved pending Town Attorney and Town Engineer approving plans for handicap access.

(4) North Creek Rd. (Keyzer) Minor subdivision. Public Hearing brought comments about: amount of clearing planned, location of driveways on the curve, and the dangerous intersection

with Coy Rd. The PB asked for a larger site plan including the remained of 65 acres and any designated wetlands.

**Correspondence** Received newsletter from Adirondack Council (Winter 2016). Included:  
(1) \$2.25 Million grants for towns of Saranac Lake and Willsboro to improve sewer treatment.  
(2) Adirondack Farms advocates met with NYS Dept of Ag. and Markets to improve sustainability in the APA. (3) Long term planning is starting for safety of crude oil trains running through the Champlain Valley.

**Town Parks** (Theresa) (1) Tree signs are being ordered to replace 6 that have been damaged.  
(2) Clean-up of the Porter Corners Nature Trail is scheduled for Sat 7 May @ 9:00AM. Members are invited and tools are welcomed. Decisions will be made about replacing creek-side benches.

**Adopt-a-Roadside** (Theresa) Various teams have begun: Stewarts, Boy Scout Troop 18.

**New business:**

(1) Long-term planning for community projects:

(a) Met with Highway Supervisor to discuss several issues:

Culverts designed to reduce erosion and to help fish migration are being installed, as directed by DEC and by ACOE. They have flat bottoms and wider profiles. EC will research methods to remedy the outflow of old culverts until they reach their replacement cycles.

Option to reduce mowing Steep banks on Plank Rd. are being replanted with wildflowers. We will look for roadsides where residents, perhaps bee-keepers, wish to have native plants complete their flower cycles before being mowed. Also, allowing native milkweed to flower can enhance the life cycle of Monarch butterflies.

Option to reduce road salt Road salt application is being minimized in Greenfield several ways: It is currently mixed with equal parts sand. New formulas and application schedules are being explored to reduce the total salt use. Background: Road salt from a storage yard has damaged drinking water in Dannemora. Adirondack college researchers are measuring salt in ground-water to determine the rate of increase. Wild life and well water will be damaged.

(b) The public was invited to our April 21 "Earth Day 2016 meeting," but attendance was sparse.

(c) We have permission to set up an EC table at the Farmers' Market on Fridays, beginning in mid-Jun.

(d) The format for Environmental Action Survey 2016 was discussed and is being adjusted according to suggestions.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM