

Meeting 15 July 2010 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Attending: Ken Blom (Co-Chair), Jan Hill (Co-chair), Nancy Kmen, Sally Lieberman, Pam Young

Minutes May minutes accepted, June minutes accepted.

Contact Reports

Town Board (Jan) July 1: Unsafe buildings at 210 N. Greenfield Rd. and at 40 Greene Rd. are being addressed. July 8: Interviewing Town Historian and updating park use regulations.

ZBA (Nancy) July 6: Mr. Ellsworth presented his case for installing an over-size farm market sign on Wilton Rd. His request was denied. Bockes Rd. garage request has been granted.

PB (Sally) July 13: Discussion about Dorsey development on Locust Grove and the upcoming public hearing. The plan includes six houses on 72 acres. Two would share a driveway. One lot is undersized but would be part of a “cluster” of homes in order to preserve the historic stone walls and the stream. The larger lots would have deed restrictions to prevent later subdivision.

June 29: Caldwell project and Cowee project. Attorney Knapp represented Capasso’s plan to move a house on a designated flood plain to higher ground. They need a form from the Town.

Highway Dept. Walt Barss responded to an earlier letter from EC.

Zoning Administration (no report)

Saratoga County Water Quality Committee (Pam) June 10: Monitoring temperature of the Kayaderosseras at 9 locations. We will investigate having a presentation from the researcher.

Correspondence (Jan) Letter from Walter Barss describes the highway the right-of-way as a nebulous distance required to maintain the road and its drainage. It averages about 25 feet from road center but can extend as necessary to remove trees or other obstructions. This was a response to a letter from EC. (Pam) 2010 Conference on the Environment at West Point in November. Cornell Cooperative Extension sent a survey on “Local Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities” which was extended to Jan.

Old Business A public hearing in Ballston Spa has been announced on the underwater power line extension in L. Champlain and Hudson R., but none yet on the proposed addition from Spier Falls-to-Rotterdam, which traverses the Town of Greenfield.

Town Park Vandalism is being repaired at the D&H Caboose on Rte. 9N. The lawn was apparently damaged by motor vehicles.

Adopt a Roadside (Theresa)

Wind Power (Ken) Reported on Iberdola’s new wind farm in Texas, the largest operated by the company worldwide. Iberdola had once acquired the plans for a wind farm in Greenfield; plans they have apparently dropped.

New Business (Sally) Hazardous waste collection date is August 21. The collection site will be at the Town of Milton. Pre-registration is required. Town of Greenfield residents can obtain a registration form at the Town Clerk’s Office. (Town Board minutes, May 2010).

Next Meeting Aug 19, 2010

TO: Environmental Commission Members

FROM: Ken Blom

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 PM

DATE: 27 July 2010

RE: Public Service Hearing on Transmission Line

CC: Dick Rowland, Town Supervisor

I attended the presentation yesterday at Scotia Glenville HS. National Grid reps explained the proposed project from Spier Falls to Rotterdam. It looks the same as the description I have read on-line. In Greenfield, the right-of-way is already wide enough and 20 more feet of trees will be cut on the west of the existing towers to accommodate a new line. The right-of-way can still be used for buildings and gardens; short vegetation will stay. They outlined the steps they are taking to have the project approved. A panel of experts took questions from audience members with specific concerns. Mostly, they were Glenville folks with properties bordering the power line asking about the 10 ft. increased right-of-way being sought near the Mohawk.

I talked with Keith Silliman, an environmental planner hired by Nat. Grid. I asked him about the forest preservation and wetland limitations our Planning Board enforces in the Town of Greenfield. He said National Grid is bound by the same restrictions as we are. Their plans must be approved by ENCON and by Army Corps of Engineers. They are also overseen by US Fish and Wildlife Service and by the US Department of Agriculture and Markets. He said he met our town supervisor on Thursday. He's willing to come to Greenfield and explain the project to the Town Board if we wish.

At 7:30, an administrative judge held a NYS Public Service Commission hearing. Seven citizens read statements into the record for the PSC to consider in making its ruling on the project. Their concerns included: (1) high overall cost of the project, (2) homeowners shouldn't bear the cost, (3) an alternate pathway around the Town of Charlton, (4) historic financial inefficiencies of the power company, (5) desire for Town of Glenville to specifically benefit in exchange for any land yielded to the right-of-way, and (6) an appeal for public access to the entire right-of-way.

See you all on Aug 19.