

Meeting 18 March 2010 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Attending: Jan Hill, Co-Chair, Nancy Kmen, Sally Leiberman, Vincent Walsh, Pam Young, Acting Secretary.

Minutes accepted as submitted.

Contact Reports

Town Board (Jan) Reported from 3/11/10 meeting minutes. The Town Board appointed Vincent Walsh as an Environmental Commission alternate member.

ZBA (Nancy) Reported on 3/2/10 meeting. ZBA discussed that there have been a number of recent requests for large variances. For example, Merchant requested 240 foot frontage variance; Ponessa looking for in-law apartment approval on 0.9 acre lot where 4 acres required. ZBA will discuss with Town attorney what their options are.

PB (Sally) Kenneth Merchant – S. Greenfield Road – Special Use Permit for garage apartment. Issues with septic system are still being investigated.

Donna Reynolds – Barney Road – Special Use Permit for horse riding business. Sally asked about their plans for manure management. Manure will be piled, composted, and spread. Public hearing 3/30/10.

Highway Dept. Nancy noted that the Highway Department has been cutting down a lot of trees along the roadsides. Discussed what happens to the wood and chips. Vince related his experience with the Highway Department last year when trees were cleared on Greene Road. Trees were cut 31 feet from the center of the road, which is beyond the 25 foot right-of-way and was on Vince's property. Vince discussed this with the Highway Department Superintendent, who offered Vince some wood in compensation. Vince never received the wood. NYS has regulations – if wood is cut on State land without permission, fines can be issued. The Town and its residents should be made aware of these regulations. Jan will draft a letter to the Highway Department requesting clarification on their policy for tree-cutting along Town roadsides.

Zoning Administration No report.

Saratoga County Water Quality Committee No issues for Greenfield.

Correspondence No correspondence.

Town Parks (Jan) Reported that the EC has \$971.75 left of our \$1000 budget. The trailhead signs at the Porter Corners Park are in need of repair or replacement. EC looked at signs available in a catalog, but these seemed expensive and may not be waterproof. Existing signs may be able to be salvaged by just replacing the plywood. Sally asked if the "Walk bicycles" sign could be changed to "No bicycles on the trail". She has witnessed bikes riding through the creek and has concerns for the environmental damage they may cause. Jan noted that a picnic table has appeared near the parking area for the park – this is probably the one that had been tossed into the creek last year. EC discussed where this table should be placed. Jan will speak to Mike McNally about the Town's rules regarding bikes on trails and if he could arrange to have the table moved to a nicer location.

Adopt-a-Roadside No report.

New Business Jan welcomed new Environmental Commission alternate member Vincent Walsh. Vince shared some of his ideas that would help the Town be "green" and save money. He would

like to see the Town compost trees and soil that are removed as part of Town projects. This compost and unclaimed wood from tree cutting projects could be made available to Town residents. EC members expressed that they would like the Highway department to refrain from cutting wildflowers along the town roads, or wait until the fall, after flowers have passed.

Vince noted that, in accordance with State Law, the Town has the responsibility to maintain inactive cemeteries; however not all such cemeteries are being maintained. The Historical Society has brought this to the Town's attention in the past. The EC discussed whether this is an environmental issue – might better be addressed by the Historical Society.

Vince questioned whether investing more money in how roads are paved might prevent or reduce frost heaving, which was evident on many Town roads this winter. Investing more money initially may avoid the need to repave as frequently. However, paving to the standards required to prevent frost heaves may cost more than the Town can afford.

Vince will investigate the Heritage Tree Program, which works to preserve exceptional, unique trees.

EC discussed posting environmental information in the Town newsletter and website – *e.g.* information on NYS's new burning laws.

Sally reported that she talked to Rosie Rowland about placing flyers with information on non-invasive landscaping plants where they are available to the public in the Town Hall.

Vince asked if the Town has a conservation plan, which maps all natural resources and could be consulted in relation to plans for development in the Town. Pam recalled that a representative from Saratoga Plan had given a presentation to the Planning Board on this topic. She will check her notes for more information. The EC could suggest that the Town pursue developing a conservation plan.

Next Meeting 15 April 2010  
Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM