

Meeting 20 May 2010 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Attending: Jan Hill, Co-Chair; LaVern Utter; Nancy Kmen; Sally Leiberman; Vincent Walsh; Pam Young, Acting Secretary; Walt Chandler, Town Board Representative; and Jacob and Kevin Veitch, Town Residents.

Minutes accepted as submitted.

Contact Reports

Town Board (LaVern) Town is participating in a Hazardous Household Waste collection in the Town of Milton on August 21, 2010. Residents wanting to dispose of wastes must register with the Town at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the event.

- A Saratoga Farmland Protection and Open Space Grant is available for the Town to apply for. Vince asked if the Town is planning to apply for funds.

- A Girl Scout Troop has conducted a cemetery clean-up. TB discussed that supervision is needed since headstones can be damaged without proper regard for them.

- A vegetable stand will be permitted to be set up at the former Mobil Station.

- The company that has erected the test wind tower on Desolation Ridge has exchanged hands, and the Town has been unable to contact them.

- National Grid wants to build a transmission line from Spier Falls to Rotterdam. The line will run parallel to the existing line, which runs through Greenfield, and may involve clearing an additional 20 foot right-of-way. They hope to start construction within a year. The project is exempt from DEC regulations and Town Code, but Supervisor Rowland would like them to comply with the Town's regulations. He would like to use reverse 911 and certified mail to inform adjacent landowners of the plan. He is organizing with other Town Supervisors to set up 3 public hearings, with at least one in Greenfield. EC looked at maps to ascertain what areas will be impacted by the project. Jan will draft a letter expressing our concerns for impacts on wetlands, streams and other habitats to submit to a public hearing. She will send it via email to EC members for review before submitting it to Mr. Rowland.

ZBA (Nancy) Application for variance to have 5 chickens on Braim Rd. (LDR zone).

Application to build a garage on Bockes Rd. – EC questioned whether there is a sufficient buffer to the nearby wetlands?

PB (Sally) J. Dorsey application for major subdivision on Locust Grove Rd. 71 acres with 6 lots (1 lot less than 6 acres (variance required), 4 lots with 6 acres, and one large lot). Development will require a stream crossing (there is an existing crossing). 100 foot buffer from stream discussed. Sight distance a concern. There will be shared driveways. PB will be doing a site walk May 15. Sally spoke to owner who is agreeable to the EC doing a site walk.

Highway Dept. Jan read the Highway Dept's response to EC letter asking for clarification regarding the Town's policy for tree-cutting along Town roadsides. Trees are cut to facilitate drainage, to prepare for repaving, to keep ice off the roads, to improve visibility, and to remove dead and dying trees that may block roads or cause power outages if they fall down. The wood is offered to the adjacent landowner – if not claimed, it is used to heat the Town Garage. The Highway Dept. attempts to avoid cutting wildflowers along the roadsides, but cutting cannot be avoided if flowers interfere with sight distance.

Zoning Administration No report.

Saratoga County Water Quality Committee No report.

Correspondence No correspondence.

Town Parks (Jan) Sally and Pam reported that the missing picnic table at the Porter Corners Park has been returned to a spot by the creek near the foot bridge. Some trees have fallen over the trail. Jan has not yet received a response from the Town Board regarding our request to replace/repair the trailhead signs.

Adopt-a-Roadside Walt Chandler reported that Denis Livsey is interested in adopting a part of Brigham Rd. Jan gave him some information and suggested that he contact Theresa Ellsworth. Vince will suggest to the Greenfield Community Business Association that they offer a free or discounted membership (worth \$100) to any business in Town that adopts a roadside. Theresa reported to Jan that she has ordered trash bags. The program also needs more vests, which cost \$2.91 each in quantities of 200. Walt Chandler suggested that the Greenfield Community Business Association could purchase the vests since they are a safety item, and it is in the interest of the Town to protect Town residents. Theresa has sent a summary of our Adopt-A-Roadside program to Neils Blue of the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

New Business Ken was contacted by Barbara Treanor who thought the EC might like to sponsor a plant swap in late May. Ken relayed the idea to Ron Feulner, who manages the Greenfield Farmers' Market. Mr. Feulner will contact Ms. Treanor. EC discussed that although it might be too late to organize a plant swap this year, the EC might be interested in being involved next year.

Pam summarized information the Town received last July on the Saratoga County Green Infrastructure Plan. Walt will speak to Supervisor Rowland about getting maps of the county plan for use by the Planning Board in reviewing development plans.

Vince suggested that we should communicate with Environmental Commissions in other towns. LaVern noted that the only other town nearby that has an environmental committee is Charlton. EC questioned whether EC meetings could be posted on the sign outside of the Town Hall. Walt will look into this.

Nancy questioned whether legal notices could be posted in the Saratogian and/or Gazette, where they would be more likely to be seen, rather than in the Post Star.

Walt will find out if the TB has approved funds for replacement/repair of the park signs.

Walt noted that Stephanie Vetter of Greenfield has been appointed to the Saratoga County Water Quality Committee.

Sally reported that DEC is developing regulations for outdoor wood boilers. Boilers in use before April 2011 (as per DEC) must be gone by August 2020. New boilers (purchased after April 2011) will have new emission restrictions and stack height and siting requirements. There will be public hearings on the proposed regulations.

Next Meeting 17 June 2010

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM