

Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission

Minutes approved 21 Jan 10

Meeting 19 November 2009 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Attending: Jan Hill, Co-Chair, Ken Blom, Co-Chair, Jim Bruchac, Nancy Kmen, Verne Utter, Pam Young

Minutes from the September, October meetings were approved as submitted.

Contact Reports

Town Board (Nancy) attended the 5 Nov meeting on Code Revisions. The TB is considering which SEQR form to submit on the outdoor furnaces. The dispute resolution aspect of the Right-to-farm law was discussed. The TB will consider requiring an engineer's approval for small private wind towers. The resolution was passed by the TB.

ZBA (Nancy) An application has been made for a private wind tower on Sand Hill Road.

PB (Sally) Meeting in early November was canceled because of lack of business.

Highway Dept. (Vern) Probably nothing will be done to Denton Rd. and Locust Grove Rd. in the remainder of the year. Cracks in pavements are being sealed.

Zoning Administration (Nancy) No report

Saratoga County Water Quality Committee (Pam) October Nothing of current interest.

Correspondence (Jan) Salt Institute will no longer print their newsletter but will make reports available on-line. The website distributes information for road maintenance personnel.

Jan sent a letter on Oct 20 to Town Board regarding SEQR for the code revisions because EC had determined that there will be environmental impacts. TB is submitting the SEQR.

Jan forwarded the NYSDEC outdoor burning regulations (www.dec.ny.gov) to EC members.

Generally, burning trash, leaves, and brush is prohibited in NYS. Brush may be burned in small towns that have no specific prohibition but not during the wildfire season from Mar 16- May 14.

Old Business

Wind Power (Vern) Wind farms have reportedly interrupted some Doppler radar readings.

Underground wires from wind generators have disturbed wildlife in California. (Ken) Effective distribution of electricity from wind is creating demand for a stronger more flexible transmission network. Spain, which generates 11% of its power from wind, briefly hit a record 53% on 8 Nov during a record high wind. American Wind Energy Assoc. reports many of the US wind farms funded by federal stimulus money plan to install foreign-made turbines. In response, NYS senators are requesting that stimulus funds be spent only on US-made wind turbines to drive job growth at home.

New Business Pam shared NYS regulations on outdoor wood boiler smoke complaints. NYS Property Maintenance Code prohibits discharge of smoke, gases, steam, vapors, etc. on adjacent property. Complaints should be directed to local code enforcers and to DEC office.

Next Meeting December 17, 2009

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM