

Town of Greenfield Environmental Commission

Minutes *subject to approval*

Meeting 15 September 2011 at Greenfield Town Hall was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Attending: Ken Blom, Co-chair; Jim Bruchac, Sally Lieberman, Jan Hill, Co-Chair; Vince Walsh

Minutes: Minutes of the May, June, July and August meetings were approved as written.

Contact Reports

Town Board (Sally, Jan) Sept 8: Board adopted changes to the Town Code Law # 1-2011 (Mobile homes, Hobby farms, Removal of debris, Size of banners, Building inspections), as presented. Reports were made on Lake Desolation parking problems, traffic hazards, and conflicts over lake access. Sept 26: Town budget and a septic tank variance were discussed. ZBA (Jan) Granted an area variance on a sign. Also discussed N. Milton variance to build a garage and an area variance on Boy Haven Rd.

PB (Jan) Aug 30: Waived public hearing about hobby farms. Approved an application for a minor subdivision on Dunham Pond Rd, provided DEC approves crossing the wetland. Sept 13: (Sally) Michael Hickman on Medbury Rd. was granted an additional extension contingent upon DEC approvals. Remilard on Wilton Rd has wetland to be considered.

Highway Dept. (Jan) Town clean-up week begins 17 Sept. The burned house on Porter Corners Rd. has been removed.

Zoning Administration No report

Saratoga County Water Quality Committee Nothing pertinent

Correspondence (Ken) A phone call from a resident about smoke from an outdoor wood furnace in Park Place was referred to the building inspector.

Town Parks (Sally) Damage was done to the stream banks and nature trail by the Hurricane Irene flooding. One picnic table has moved dangerously close to the edge of a high bank. Walt Barss will review the conditions.

Adopt-a-Roadside No report

Questions about: (Vince) (1) Height of a Barn on Daniels Rd height looks to be over 35 ft. Jan will send the question to Jerry McKenna. (2) Run-off from the golf course of insecticides and herbicides: Sally responded that it is being managed with biodegradable chemicals. (3) Roadside mowing has destroyed hundreds of feet of milkweed at blossoming time. Milkweed is necessary for Monarch butterflies to complete their cycle. Ken will talk with Walt Barss about the mowing schedule. (4) Outcome of the Colura development on Griffin Rd. and Locust Grove Rd. There was no application as of July. The Planning Board scheduled a site visit for Sept 10. Jan will call Rosie about an application. (5) We could process better if we had access to a Town Map with lot numbers and names. Jan will talk to MaryAnn.

In response to earlier question about the start of National Grid's transmission line project, which crosses the Town of Greenfield, Ken shared an article reporting that PSC approved the project on March 7. The National Grid website describes details of the project. Surveys appear to have been

done and measurements recorded on roadsides where the transmission line crosses other power lines.

New Business (Ken) Reported (1) Traps for emerald ash borers have been installed by DEC along our roads. The purple color and the odor of manuka oil from New Zealand combine to lure the insects to glue-covered surfaces. In the fall phase of the project, target trees will be selected among stands of ash trees. The selected trees will have bark removed to attract the majority of the ash borer eggs and then the selected trees will be cut during the winter, killing the larvae. (2) Purple wind turbines have been found by researchers to be least attractive to birds so many new ones will be painted purple. (3) NYS Thruway Authority will install wind turbines to power 5 of its thruway interchanges in the western New York.

Next Meeting 20 October 2011
Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 PM