WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 1171
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01585
Minutes
February 1, 2012

Present: Gordon DeWolf  Keith Arsenault
         Brian Silva   Dick Rossman, Historical Committee
         Jesse Serrano
         Christine Long
         Eric Tunley

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gordon DeWolf at 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES: Brian Silva made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2012.
Jesse Serrano second. Vote 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

SOLAR PROJECTS:
Keith & Marie Arsenault, 94 Ragged Hill Road. The Stormwater Authority approved the application and plan at their meeting this morning. Attachment #3 stating that Stormwater Authority had approved the application was added to the Order of Conditions. The Order of Conditions was hand-delivered to Keith Arsenault at tonight’s meeting.

Taylor Caswell, West Brookfield Solar LLC, Route 9 East Main Street. We have received a Notice of Intent today and will schedule a Public Hearing at our next meeting on March 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. Gordon DeWolf said that one-half of the property has been purchased for the Solar Energy Facility and the rest of the field has been purchased by someone else and apparently is looking to subdivide. Members looked at the plans. Gordon does not see any wetland problems and they will do some work in the buffer zone. He does feel that neighbors will protest. The Open Space Plan says that the view from the field to the river is special. The solar field will be 20 feet below the level of the road and is mostly behind the tree line. People living on the hill and looking down may see it. The panels are going to be angled toward the south and there will be no reflection toward the houses. A State Law was passed originally that people can put solar panels on their houses and this has not been challenged in court. If the Zoning Review Board decides it does not conflict with rural residential rules, they would normally allow it. If not, it would probably end up in court. The Company that is putting in these panels is the same who is putting panels in the gravel pit in East Brookfield.

DEP LETTER: Reviewed the DEP Water Department Pumping Test Report.

PUBLIC LANDS PRESERVATION ACT, H.3438: Gordon DeWolf said several years ago Anne Gobi put in a LPA and it has gone through committees and now will go to the Speaker of the House to be put on the agenda. Gordon DeWolf says if it is passed preserved land cannot be sold off without replacing with other land. The Conservation Commission signed a letter in support to be sent to Representative Anne Gobi.
MACC CONFERENCE: Brian Silva, Jesse Serrano and Christine Long will attend the conference at Holy Cross on March 3, 2012.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT: Dick Rossman, Historical Committee brought in a flyer “Preserving your Community with The Community Preservation Act. There will be a presentation on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 in the West Brookfield Town Hall.

PRESERVING LAND: We still cannot find the maps. Brian Silva will look again at his house. They are not in the office. Gordon DeWolf says it makes sense to preserve land that is adjacent to other land we have and/or already protected by other agencies like Rock House, Fish & Game, et cetera. Suggestions were Long Hill Road (swampy area), near McRevey property, near Town Forest, Wickaboag Valley Road.

Signed the Warrant.

Read Mail.


Next meeting is March 7, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary