WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 1171
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01585

Minutes
March 7, 2012

Present:

Gordon DeWolf   Approximately 18-20 abutters to the Solar Project on Route 9 East Main Street.
Jim Talvy       Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
Richard Provencher
Brian Silva     Jim DiMaio, Tree Warden
Jesse Serrano   Harvey Collins, 35 Highland Trail
Christine Long  Taylor Caswell, W. Brookfield Solar LLC
Eric Tunley     David Pickart, VHB, Inc.
                 Craig Lizotte, VHB, Inc.

Due to the number of people who attended the meeting, it was held in the Great Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gordon DeWolf at 7:02

PUBLIC HEARING: West Brookfield Solar, LLC, Route 9 East Main Street. Taylor Caswell, David Pickart and Craig Lizotte were present to answer questions. Approximately 18-20 abutters and interested parties attended the hearing. Josephine Turturro presented a petition of which Gordon told her this was not the place for this but she insisted on leaving it. Chairman Gordon DeWolf said the project must meet State and Local regulations. One abutter asked if we knew the regulations and Gordon DeWolf replied that we did. David Pickart, VHB wetland engineer, presented an overview of the site and the proposed project. He pointed out the wetlands, buffer zone and panel construction area. He explained that” tube socks” would be used to control erosion. Weed whackers would be used around the panels one or two times a year. He said that because there were rare species a copy of the plan goes to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.59). They have sent a letter dated March 2, 2012 stating that the information that is currently in our database, the NHESP has determined that this project, as currently proposed, will not adversely affect the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife performance standard for the issue of an Order of Conditions. Please note that the NHESP’s review pursuant to MA Endangered Species Act is ongoing. No soil or vegetation disturbance, work, clearing, grading or other activities related to the subject filing shall be conducted anywhere on this project site until the NHESP has completed its MESA review. There will be no mowing during the nesting period. A drip edge will be put on the front of the panels to disperse runoff. There will be no chemicals applied. Construction will take four to six months. Abutters had many questions many of which did not apply to the wetlands and were asked to bring them up to the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Taylor Caswell stated that the panels he will be using are a silicone base panel enclosed in glass and are manufactured in the USA. Gordon DeWolf stated there would be no decision made until we hear from the NHESP.
Brian Silva made a motion to continue the Public Hearing at the next meeting on April 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. Eric Tunley second. Voted 7-0 to continue the Public Hearing.

At this time, the meeting resumed in the Conservation Office, Lower Level of the Town Hall.

8:30 p.m. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Harvey Collins, 35 Highland Trail, removal of boat house. Brian Silva, Jesse Serrano and Erick Tunley made the site visit. Brian said the boat house was falling in and asked if it was to be replaced and the answer was no. The building is to be removed by hand. Negative determination written.

Jim DiMaio, Tree Warden, presented his Forest Management Plan for this year. The areas discussed were Route 9 from Route 32 going towards West Brookfield and Wigwam and New Braintree Roads. The Route 9 area has a lot of invasive species and an old orchard plus a lot of trash. He would like to rehab this area by getting rid of the invasive species and replacing with native species. He would especially like to plant American Chestnut. He is still trying to work with the Wickaboag Sportsmen Club and did meet with them. At this point, they do not want him to begin work. Jim DiMaio suggested a motion that we agree with his plans and support him and that he continues to work with the Sportsmen’s Club. Brian made the motion. Jesse second. Voted 7-0 to support the Tree Warden’s plans for 2012.

Keith Arsenault, Treasurer was present to talk about what properties would be valuable for the Conservation Commission to acquire. He would like to have a loose plan looking forward, look at what the Town owns and has liens on, put it together and focus on areas. Gordon DeWolf said there is a piece between Welcome Road and the Trustees of Reservation that would be great to have. Because we can no longer locate our map of Town properties, the secretary will ask Betty DiMaio to help compile a list of APR, 61A & B and any Town owned land. We will look at this and decide. Keith Arsenault suggested that we ask the Town for money each year to save to purchase land. Even a $1,000 a year would certainly help. Doc Bills place is also a good site to have. Historical society is also interested in this property.

**MINUTES:** Brian made a motion to accept the minutes of February 1, 2012. Gordon DeWolf second. Vote 7-0 to approve the minutes of February 1, 2012 as presented.

**RESURFACING WARE TOWN LINE TO PIERCE ROAD:** Reviewed letter from Coler & Colantonio. Comments to be submitted to Coler & Colantonio, Inc., 101 Accord
Park Drive, Norwell, MA 02061. A letter will be written asking them to provide diagrams with measurements of the actual roadway and the existing right of ways.

SITE INSPECTIONS: Water Department, Leland Road, construct chemical treatment building, wells and pavement replacement. Gordon DeWolf will do the site visit.

John Paolucci, 32 Long Hill Road, Request of Determination, house, driveway and septic. Brian Silva will do the site visit.

Brian Silva made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gordon DeWolf second. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary