

Conservation Board Meeting *Minutes*
Monday, March 26, 2007
7:00pm

The regular scheduled meeting of the Hamlin Conservation Board was held at the Hamlin Town Hall located at 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin and was called to order at 7:00pm by the Chairman Dave Walch with the location of the fire exits and AED explained for those present.

Present: Merritt Ackles, Tom Breslawski, Craig Goodrich, Jeanine Klopp, Tammy Palumbo, Mark Reeves and Dave Walch.

Also present: Town Board Liaison Paul Rath, Planning Board member Tom Jensen and residents Aaron LaFaro and Mr. and Mrs. Habgood.

A motion was made by Jeanine Klopp, seconded by Craig Goodrich to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2007 meeting as presented. Members polled, all ayes. Motion carried, minutes approved.

Public Forum Opened

REPORTS

Craig Goodrich gave a report on the March 5, 2007 Planning Board meeting. Craig reported that Jamie Radder received Preliminary and Final Site Plan approval for 808 Wiler Road. Mr. Ophardt received lot combination approval to combine 4 lots into 1. Rodney Mank requested information regarding roadside stands but was not present at the meeting. He is interested in purchasing 5 acres to have a roadside stand.

Craig Goodrich gave a report on the March 19, 2007 Zoning Board meeting. Craig reported that they discussed receiving a Zoning Bulletin on legal issues and training opportunities were discussed.

Mark Reeves gave a report on the March 12, 2007 Town Board meeting. Mark reported that a Public Hearing on local law to enact a moratorium regarding Wind Towers was held. R-News was present. Paul Rath abstained and Dave Rose was not present at the meeting. The Town Board passed a moratorium on Wind Towers. An increase in dog seizure fees was passed. A presentation from the Community Center Exploratory Committee was given. They suggested that the Town Board visit the Perinton facility. During the Public Forum most people were in favor of the moratorium.

Merritt Ackles gave a report on the March 12, 2007 Fishing Advisory Board meeting. Merritt reported that they discussed the dredging project at Braddock's Bay. Steve Gibbs is in charge of the project since the Town of Greece turned it over to the marina. Mr. Gibbs is asking for funding for the project from Jim Walsh and Louise Slaughter. They are looking into a new channel to the west. The DEC wants to protect the habitat. The

Coast Guard is now involved in reviewing the application. Approval for the new channel will take a long time.

Merritt also gave a report on the State of the Lake meeting he attended. He reported there were 8 speakers present. They discussed bait fishing; new fishing regulations and surveys were done on different fish. The lake trout is low in numbers due to reproduction problems.

Dave Walch gave a report on the March 21, 2007 EMC meeting. Dave reported that there was a speaker on Wind Towers present from the Rochester Birding Association. A brochure on invasive species in the area was passed around with suggestions on how to get rid of them.

Mark Reeves gave a report on the March 6 and March 20 Wind Tower Committee meetings. Mark reported that at the March 6 meeting they discussed noise issues. Their trip to Wethersfield was discussed. The positives of wind towers and boundary easements were discussed. Meeting dates were listed in the newsletter. Setback requirements were discussed. How to address questions from the public were discussed. Mark gave a report on the March 20 meeting. He reported that Art McFarlane resigned from the committee so now Mark is the Chairman of the Committee. Mark presented a plan to address the 8 objectives and answer them with documentation and creditable facts then pass the information on to the Town Board so they can make the final decision. Some Old Business was discussed. The possibility of hiring Mr. Spitzer was discussed and there was some conflicting information so Dave Lukas and Denny Roach will have a conference call with him to get that straightened out. Public Forum was held for an hour. A new sign in sheet was introduced. A sign explaining it was suggested. Building a model of a wind tower to scale was discussed. Pictures of birds and towers were passed along. A resident of the Town is an Audiologist so the committee would like him to come with them when they visit area wind farms for his input. The number of birds killed due to the towers was discussed. The National Fish and Wildlife Service suggests that a 3- year study be completed prior to any towers being installed. Proper placement of the towers was discussed. At the next meeting they will work on signing up for objectives and a timeline. Tammy mentioned the tower placement issue. She stated that according to the Bird Watchers Digest the proper placement is very important. Tammy handed out information regarding birds and wind towers. Tubular towers vs. lattice towers were discussed. It was mentioned that the State is introducing legislature for a moratorium on wind towers also. They are proposing a uniform code for the State. Tammy also discussed a study that is being done regarding off shore towers. A discussion took place on the effects the towers have on the birds and their habitat.

Craig gave a report on the Zoning Workshop. Craig reported that they are proposing some changes in the zoning along the lake. The Conservation Board's comments were addressed. They didn't get to the 1-acre proposal at the last meeting. Chairman Dave Walch said to review the changes and send comments to him and he would forward them on to Denny for the Town Board.

Chairman Dave Walch reported that Craig and himself attended the Green Building Expo. Merritt stated that he also attended. A tire recycling business was discussed. A representative from RG&E discussed wind energy. Geothermal heat was discussed. Dave stated that it is very expensive. Soy spray insulation and living roofs and walls were also mentioned. Dave commented that it was a very interesting expo.

ASSIGNMENTS

Craig Goodrich	PB	4-02-07
Craig Goodrich	ZBA	4-16-07
Tom Breslawski	TB	4-09-07
Merritt Ackles	FAB	4-09-07
Dave Walch	EMC	4-18-07
Mark Reeves	Wind Towers	4-3-07 and 4-17-07
Craig Goodrich	Zoning Workshop	4-17-07

DISCUSSION

Chairman Dave Walch mentioned several training opportunities available in April and May. If anyone was interested in attending they needed to let the Clerk know so a voucher can be submitted.

Chairman Dave Walch mentioned the tree give away April 28 at Tops at 9:00am. Everyone should be there early to set up. Dave and Craig will pick up the trees on Friday. Several different handouts were discussed.

Tammy Palumbo handed out to everyone information from the Bird Conservation. Some discussion took place regarding the number of birds that are killed by cats.

Resident Kathy Habgood stated that cats don't kill raptors. She also mentioned some issues regarding the Wind Tower Committee minutes from the last meeting. She stated that the Fish and Wildlife Service says that a 3-year study should be done. She had documentation and she wanted that clarified in the minutes. Also she wanted her comment regarding the Conservation Board member's comment to her was corrected. She stated that he asked if they were the birder people and then he said he liked his well done. From the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service it states that 4-5 million birds are killed a year due to the construction of towers. From the Fish and Wildlife Service it states in 2001 that the blade tips become transparent under windy conditions when they are moving at 200 mph causing the birds to fly through the arch and be struck by the blades and killed. A report from Bill Evans from Cornell stated that in 1 night an estimated 5-10, 000 birds were killed on the night of January 22, 1998 in the vicinity of a 420' communication tower in Kansas. Tammy explained that on that particular night it was a rare occurrence due to the weather conditions. It was very foggy and snowy that night and the guide lights kept the birds down in the area and caused them to be killed. Mark asked if there was any follow up done. Tammy hadn't heard of any. Mrs. Habgood stated that a study being done now at Tug Hill states that an estimated 6,000 birds have

been killed in 1 year. The studies are very time consuming and expensive. Mrs. Habgood stated that not only are they being killed but also their habitat is being destroyed and the wetlands are being destroyed. Tom Breslawski stated that the towers are not in the wetlands. Mrs. Habgood stated that there are wetlands in this area. Craig Goodrich questioned the study regarding the 5-6,000 birds that were killed. He asked if that was per windmill. Mrs. Habgood stated no, that it was per 120. It was estimated because they didn't study all of them. Craig asked if they were the new towers or the old style. Mrs. Habgood they were at Tug Hill. Tom questioned wasn't it at Maple Ridge. It was determined that they were the modern windmills. Tom asked if there have been any studies done on flat terrain areas like in Hamlin instead of just studies done on locations with hills and mountains. Mrs. Habgood stated that the trouble with all the studies is you have to get the wind people's permission to do them. Mrs. Habgood mentioned a study done in Pennsylvania, West Virginia on the number of bats that are killed due to wind towers. Mark mentioned that the study on bats done in Virginia was placed right near a cave. Craig questioned the bats hitting the blades and being killed because they use sonar. Mrs. Habgood stated that it's due to the fact that the blades are moving 200 mph. Tom questioned the speed. Mrs. Habgood stated that it is quoted in the US Fish and Wildlife Service survey based on windy conditions. Tom stated that is on the larger 400' towers. Mrs. Habgood stated yes that is what is being proposed. It was stated that nothing has been proposed. Merritt asked if the purpose for bringing this to the Conservation Board was to make them aware of the problems with the birds because there is a Wind Tower Committee now that is trying to come up with some regulations for the wind towers. He asked if she was saying that we shouldn't build any wind towers due to the number of birds that are killed. Mrs. Habgood stated that the MET tower is located across the road from her house and she has watched the birds for 28 years flying right where the turbines are going to be. She is concerned with the towers killing all of the migratory birds in the area. She has sent several pictures.

Mark Reeves handed out information on Biomass Crops. It is a good enhancement to wildlife because the plants aren't knocked down until after nesting season. They are using biomass now for ethanol. He heard 1 energy unit in 7 out. He will find that information again. Working on a plant ethanol plant in Greece. Tammy stated that birds are nesting in the cornfields and the farmers come through and knock it all down. Tom Breslawski wanted to clarify that the farmers like the birds. They stake out the nests in the fields and they go around the nest. They don't do any cutting until after nesting season. Tammy said that is great. Mark mentioned that from Reserve America there is a NYS firewood alert. Do not transport firewood from home because there are problems with invasive species. Burn all of your wood at the campsite. Don't transport firewood. The website www.invasive.org was mentioned. Dave will try to get more brochures to hand out.

Merritt Ackles stated that he attended two training sessions at MCC. Very good SEQR information. All three speakers were very good.

Tom Jensen asked the Conservation Board for their comments regarding the proposed nursery across the street. He was concerned with the serving of food and the use of

chemicals. Tammy stated that M.C.H.D. will inspect and he will have to have a permit for serving food. They have strict regulations. Dave stated that there may be some contamination there now from fertilizers and chemicals. Dave said the Board would be concerned with the chemicals being used.

Merritt asked about Craig's suggestion last month on a list of projects. Dave stated they would table that until next month.

Tammy mentioned a phone call she received regarding a Lake Front Survey. They wouldn't identify themselves and it was a private number.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tom Breslawski, seconded by Tammy Palumbo to adjourn this portion of tonight's meeting. Members polled, all ayes. Motion carried.

HAMLIN WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting called to order.

Present: Merritt Ackles, Tom Breslawski, Craig Goodrich, Jeanine Klopp, Tammy Palumbo, Mark Reeves and Dave Walch.

REFERRALS

None

DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tom Breslawski, seconded by Mark Reeves to adjourn tonight's meeting barring no further business. Members polled, all ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Heather Norman
Clerk to the Support Boards

The next scheduled meeting of the Hamlin Conservation Board will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:00pm.