

Hopkinton Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Quorum present

The minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved.

Featured Items

Follow up on Wind Energy Ordinance Workshop 1-22-17

The Town Council asked for information on: effect on property values, why we believe this is important for farms. Why we need an air tight ordinance. Why we suggest a sunset clause. Why we suggest a minimum of 50 acres. Address bird kills, and visual modeling (aka balloon). Advantage that 1 acre of wind equals 6 acres of solar in tax to the town. Address NIMBY concerns. Siting proximity to 3-phase power sources.

IV. Officer Reports/ project updates

Planning Board (John) PB The gravel pit 1 MW solar. Neighbors are in favor. To be rezoned to accommodate (industrial special)

New project: Main Street Solar Project: 137 acres. DEM approval, wetlands on

Property. Concerns about impact to residential area on Maxon Hill Road.

Buffers in Commercial zone vs. Industrial zone.

B. Legislation and Meetings Watch (Deb) Land and Water Summit, Saturday, March 10th @ URI. Registrations sent.

V. Old Business

Hopkinton Outdoors-still a work in progress.

**Wellhead Protection and 25 User Threshold- no new information
Farm Viability - We would like the Town Council to adopt the new, updates to the Farm Viability Ordinance.**

VI. Trail Grant Implementation Continuing with mapping and kiosks.

VII. Public Forum. No members of the public in attendance.

VIII. No topics suggested for next meeting agenda.

IX. Action items: Response to Town Council WECS questions and concerns.

(Harvey). Planning Board meeting, March 7th (John) URILand and Water Summitt (all)

X. Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah O'Leary

Secretary

Hopkinton Conservation Commission