



Plympton Bylaw Review Committee

Minutes for November 17th, 2022

Deborah Sampson Meeting Room

The meeting, having been duly posted with an agenda, was opened by Chair, Alan Wheelock at 6:35 PM.

Present: Dave Alberti, Amy Cronin, Kevin Rafferty, Ann Sobolewski and Alan Wheelock

Regrets: Jean Cohen and Arthur Kinsman

Guests: Selectman John Traynor

- 1. Minutes.** The November 3rd, 2022 minutes, submitted by Amy Cronin were approved as written.
- 2. Aquifer Protection – Groundwater Protection Overlay District Bylaw.** Our existing bylaw has 3 zones and we are unsure if it is being enforced. This district would be an overlay district and the zoning that you're in will still remain (it doesn't supersede).

Alan spoke with Bill Napolitano who assisted Rehoboth with their groundwater protection overlay district bylaw. He will send us other towns that are good samples.

Amy Cronin spoke with Daniel Roach, Rehoboth Town Planner and Conservation Agent about their bylaw. The Bylaw was modified to cover the entire town, but because of covid, it was not voted on. They expect the bylaw to be voted on in the Spring. He will be sending us a copy of the proposed new bylaw in clean and redlined versions. He noted that they weren't concerned with conflicts as it won't supersede zone (like water treatment can only be in industrial districts), and agricultural uses are carved out "by right". He said we could reach out to him during our process at (508) 252-6891 or droach@rehobothma.gov.

Examples of pollution in Plympton include potentially Angel's Auto and the Middleboro dump and the ground water pollution on the Carver/Plympton line (that caused the stoppage of the new project off 44). Additionally, there were some issues on Ring Road with wells (Jack O'Leary may know the details and John will give Dave contact info) and the Superfund site on Main Street. Additionally, the old country store (in the past was a gas station) had oil tanks leaked. Questions were raised about Bonney Pond (on Center Street) and Taylor Pond (near Winnetuxet Rd); they are suspected by members to be polluted. It was noted that the road drains to those ponds as well.

Going forward, it was discussed that the groundwater protection districts map Zone 1 (soil and bedrock containing the best water) is the largest area of the town. Zone 3 (impervious

with little water) is where projects would have less potential for pollution. It was noted that the Industrial Park is in Zone 1.

Alan wrote the questions we should consider:

What does the GPOD protect that isn't already protected?

What past incidents of groundwater pollution might have been prevented by a GPOD?

What are the most common land uses in Plympton that could potentially threaten the groundwater?

Discussion included: pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizers, clearcutting, sand and gravel removal, erosion associated with sand and gravel removal, commercial solar farms, dredging brooks, road salt, underground oil storage tanks, subdivision roads? What about solar panels and how they're mounted – possibly protection needed too? Depositing of snow (with all the salt/chemicals) from another area should be prohibited? Agreed that the committee should look at "fill" used in construction projects to add to the bylaw.

GOING FORWARD. Rather than try to pull into the Rehoboth Bylaw, we should take the existing Plympton Bylaw and modify. We will consider the areas above. Northfield and Rochester are two towns that also have good bylaws. Dave took Rochester and Kevin took Northfield to review. Amy and Alan will continue to review Rehoboth. Ann will see if the model from the state has been updated. Alan will talk to Wendy to see if the overlay map can be digitized. John Traynor suggested talking to some cranberry growers, including Jeffrey Lefleur.

3. Parking Lot Items:

- Sprinklering houses greater than 3000 ft²; and parking regulations.
- Do setbacks apply to tennis courts, swimming pools – do they count as a structure?
- There are some zoning terminology changes (like light manufacturing versus light industrial which is supposed to be the same thing).
- Animal Control Officer. We have an agreement with the Town of Carver that we share their Animal Control Officer. There is no entity that will inspect a property when a kennel is being proposed. It was questioned if the barn inspector (Brian Kling) could also inspect for kennels; he inspects 100+ pigs, cows, chicken coops, all animals, etc. It was discussed that Brian Kling noted that he didn't have the proper tools to perform the job (canine catching tools, tranquilizer gun and gun for injured deer, etc.). A job position with tools provided is needed. It's possible a student in the ag program or 4H could be a future candidate. This could be a project to pass on to the Town Administrator, Liz.
- Solid Waste and Illegal Dumping Bylaw
- 300-6.3 Trailers/mobile homes
- Groundwater Protection Overlay District Bylaw (Alan and Dominique). After studying the current Floodplain and Watershed Protection District, Section 300-8.1 – highlighted

by Ann Sobolewski at the February 17th BLRC meeting – Alan concluded that, before the Town can adopt the Rehoboth Groundwater protection language, it will be necessary to reconcile the existing Plympton regulations against the Rehoboth by-law. The amount of overlap - or even potential conflicts – has to be reviewed carefully before bringing this issue to the voters.

- Setback definitions in §300-5.1 through 300-5-7 (Amy)
- Bylaw to Promote Clear Marking of Driveways.
- Kennels
- Key Lock Boxes
- 300-7.1 General provisions, Section (A)(1) change “maximum” to “minimum”?
- Clarify the varying terms “access area” and “roadway” in Articles 34 and 35.
- 300-8.3(E)3 – it was questioned if the numbers should be I, II and III (not just II). This is likely an error as it was believed to be in the prior bylaws correctly.

Next Meetings: The Committee’s regular meeting schedule is the first and third Thursday of each month, starting at 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be on December 1st. The meeting on December 15th is cancelled.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair, Alan Wheelock at 8:00 pm. These minutes are respectfully submitted by Amy Cronin.