

Town of Bristol

Planning Board and ZBA Joint Meeting of September 8, 2020

Present: Joann Rogers, Bob Stryker, Karen Ellmore, Marty Snyder, Steve Smiley, Donna Beretta, John Krebbeks and Secretary Sandra Riker

Patti Giordano excused

Others present: Dr. Bruce Gilman, Supervisor Robert Green, Dede and Stan Colwell

Minutes: Dr. Bruce Gilman presented the completed Town of Bristol Inventory of Land Use and Land Cover. It is a culmination of 3 years work by Terry Saxby from Ontario County Planning, Sherry Norton of GIS services and himself that include digital mapping, field research, and ground truthing. His classifications of plant community cover types reported follow the protocols established by the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation and the Nature Conservancy. The system begins with broad ecological systems, then subdivides describing cultural and natural categories, and finally ends with specific plant communities. The heritage program ranks each plant community cover type for its rarity and vulnerability at two geographic scales: a global scale (G) and a state-wide scale (S). Ranking scores range from one (plant communities with few occurrences that are judged to be rare plant communities) to five (common plant communities presumed to be secure across the geographic scales). State rankings can assist local towns with developing a sense of special significance for certain plant community cover types found within their municipal boundaries. A third scale modeled after the NY Natural Heritage Program approach assigns local significance (L) within the Town of Bristol based entirely on the town occurrences data collected during the field inventory. At this finest of scales, some plant community types that are rare within the town of Bristol stand out. These plant communities should be considered for local protection efforts like conservation easements or outright fee title acquisition.

There are two areas within the town that would have L1 status meaning they only occur within one area in the town; *confined river* and *perched swamp oak white swamp*. The natural plant community of chestnut oak forest has an L2 rating. All

other natural plant communities detected in the fieldwork had multiple occurrences within the Town.

He has provided some potential next steps for the Town to follow in protecting the natural and cultural plant communities and brought us a map of the town showing the results of his work.

Review of 2019 Solar Law: It was agreed the current Law is in good shape as far as small scale solar but would like to beef up the decommissioning portion and look at other rural towns' laws in regards to setbacks, and height restrictions for large scale solar. It was suggested to look at the Town of Richmond as they seem to have setback requirements specific to density of population adjacent to the project.

Fines will be held at \$350 and \$500. As written.

We are holding the battery storage portion for next month's review.

The Board asked the secretary to reach out to Haylee Farington for more information regarding the recycling of solar panels.

ZBA minutes were reviewed and a correction needs to be made stating that "no one wished to comment on the public hearing" and then a motion was made by Marty Snyder with a second by John Krebbeks to accept the minutes as corrected.

A motion was made by Karen Ellmore to adjourn the Planning Board with a motion by Marty Snyder to adjourn the ZBA also.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Riker

Town of Bristol

Planning & ZBA Secretary

Approved with a motion by Joann Rogers with a second by Justin Steinbach.
Joann Rogers aye, Justin Steinbach aye, Patti Giordano abstained.