

PROSPECT PLANNING BOARD

PROSPECT COMMUNITY CLUB

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

4:15 PM

PRESENT: KATHLEEN JENKINS, BECKY AMES, SANDY REYNOLDS, LOIS GIANNI, ARLINE LAMARCHE, LAURIE JONES, HENRI GIGNOUX

OTHERS: PETER SHOULTS

Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR MAY 28, 2026:

Minutes from the meeting were sent to all members. Gignoux made a motion to accept the minutes of May 28, 2026, Jones seconded the motion. All others approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Discuss Ordinance to Prohibit AI Data Centers per request from the Select Board:

<https://mainemorningstar.com/2026/05/20/local-officials-look-to-pause-data-center-development-after-state-moratorium-veto/>

- Towns are jumping on an AI ban and the Planning Board recommends an AI Moratorium for the Town of Prospect as soon as possible and to hold a Special Town meeting to present the Moratorium. That will also give the Planning Board time to work on an AI Ordinance for the Town.
- Shoults said he would take on the responsibility to draft the Moratorium. He will use Brunswick's as a template.
- Jenkins has attached a copy of the Data Center Moratorium Ordinance from the Town of Brunswick that the Town Attorney recommended. Westbrook also used this Ordinance as a template when creating their AI Ordinance.
- Gignoux stated he had not found a good definition of an AI Data Center. It is defined in the Brunswick document but not what they use for water.

- The Board has a lot of research to do and it might help to get experts to come to a meeting and have a discussion about AI.
- Some of the main concerns are water usage, energy usage and noise and many computers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss changes to the Solar Ordinance:

- Shoults asked if the changes the Planning Board wanted to make to the Solar Ordinance were significant enough to have a Public Hearing.
- Shoults also asked where would the Solar Ordinance be placed within the Land Use Ordinance. He asked if it should be changed to Personal Energy System. Would Commercial be near the top and Personal solar near the bottom? Jenkins stated it made sense to leave as Solar Energy Ordinance because the public would look for it under Solar.
- A couple changes to the Solar Ordinance were recommended by Gignoux. On page 11, E. Personal Solar Energy Systems, #1. (a) Delete the word ~~no~~ and change shall to *may*. Also, change the title of the Ordinance from Commercial Solar Energy System Ordinance to *Solar Energy Ordinance* since it does include a section on residential projects.

Jenkins will update the Select Board on what was discussed at the Planning Board meeting and recommend possibly a Special Town meeting on Saturday, July 11, 2026. The first thing would be to have a Public Hearing on the changes to the Solar Ordinance and then a meeting to discuss the AI Moratorium and to have a vote on the Mining Ordinance. (There has already been a Public Hearing on the Mining Ordinance).

OTHER:

At the next Planning Board meeting the group will start researching AI. The Planning Board should also review the State of Maine law that was vetoed by Governor Mills and also other ordinances from other municipalities. There was also a question on how AI affected the Site Plan Review Ordinance and the Aquifer Ordinance.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:

The Planning Board meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

The Planning Board will not meet on Thursday, June 25, 2026 due to medical issues, travel and farm work. The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 4:15 pm at the Prospect Community Center.