

PROSPECT PLANNING BOARD

PROSPECT COMMUNITY CLUB

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2026

4:15 PM

PRESENT: KATHLEEN JENKINS, BECKY AMES, SANDY REYNOLDS, ARLINE LAMARCHE, LAURIE JONES

NOT PRESENT: LOIS GIANNI, HENRI GIGNOUX

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR JUNE 11, 2026:

Minutes from the meeting were sent to all members. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of June 11, 2026, Ames seconded the motion. All others approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Town Attorney regarding prohibition of AI:

Comments from the Attorney on June 8, 2026:

She attached a draft moratorium from the town of Brunswick and stated that Westbrook adopted the same language (but without the minimum size in the definition of data center).

She added: If you expect that the town will want to ban the larger data centers entirely, you might just skip the moratorium and go ahead and amend the Ordinance to do so. That can be done retroactively to the first date it was proposed at a Select Board meeting.

"I don't know of any municipalities that have yet banned data centers, just moratoria so far. If Prospect wanted to do so, first, as I might have mentioned, there should be some clearly articulated reason for doing so. For example, based on information you learned while considering solar regulation, is there a lack of power capacity in town to serve reasonable residential and commercial growth? I do think a ban, if enacted, would best fit into the SPRO, likely by creating a new category of "prohibited development" in Article III, listing "large-scale-data center" under that category, and then defining "large-scale data center."

OLD BUSINESS:

Update from Select Board regarding special Town meeting:

- There needs to be a Public Hearing due to the changes made to the Solar Ordinance. This should happen before a Town meeting. We are waiting on the other Ordinances.
- It was felt that there does not need to be further review into the restriction of blasting to prevent damage like has been previously experienced in town with wells being contaminated. Brandy could not make the last Public Hearing on this Ordinance so was not able to voice concerns. The way we left this was to reach out to the Town Attorney to see, if anything, we need to do to tighten up this Ordinance. Depending on the response we will go forward or request modifications. (Advice from the Lawyer was received March 22nd and changes were made March 26th).
- AI Data Center Moratorium – 2 meetings ago when brought up, Shoults took responsibility to draft a Moratorium. He basically took Brunswick and modified it to Prospect. This will be presented to the Town Attorney, if okay, we are good going forward.

Any changes to language must be by the Planning Board, but in the case of the MLSO, the Select Board made the changes. This could be a problem and create conflict. There are roles for the Committees in towns / where do you stop the crossover?

Jenkins will draft an email to the Select Board with concerns on the Mining Ordinance and forward the Attorney's notes as well as our own notes (handout at Public Hearing)/minutes from 3-26, 4-9 & 5-28-2026., etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

AI Data Center prohibition: State of Maine law that was vetoed by Governor Mills and Ordinances from other municipalities:

- Jones had a copy of the State of Maine law that was vetoed by Mills. She also had a copy of what Data Centers are per Wikipedia.
- We will begin to research the complexities of the Maine Law and will consult with the Hydrogeologist about her recommendations.
- There should be a Moratorium ASAP.
- Jenkins will relate the urgency to the Select Board by email and ask when the Public Hearing and Town meeting can be scheduled.
- Jenkins will try to contact Golden and Mills now that the Jay mill is closed and see how that might affect the State of Maine Law and also is there a State Moratorium in the works?

OTHER:

There was a question from someone in Town on whether grandfathered (in this case a gravel pit) would be passed on to a child by inheritance. We suggested that an Attorney be consulted.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:

The Planning Board meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will meet on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 4:15 pm at the Prospect Community Center.