

**Planning Board
Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2011**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)
Alan Rice (AR)
Ken Miller (KM)
Judy Haupt (JH)

Others Present: Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW), Ken Kippen (KK), Paultette Leukhardt (PL)

The meeting is called to order at 7:30 pm.

1. Review of mail.
2. Review of the December 15, 2010 minutes. KM moves to accept the minutes as amended. AR seconds and all vote in favor.
3. In regards to the December 15, 2010 minutes number 7, AR states he will email the DOT/FAA *Development of Obstruction Lighting Standards for Wind Turbine Farms* to the group.
4. Review of Jan. 4, 2011 document retention schedule. MF suggests amending that the Planning Board rules to include language: "All records listed in the 1/4/11 Record Retention Schedule 15.01 – 15.14 as having a one-year life span shall be retained in perpetuity until such time as the Planning Board amends this rule." MF makes motions to include this language in the Board rules. JH seconds it and all vote in favor. BS will incorporate this into the Rules and email revised copies to the Board and Town Clerk.
5. KM and AR show pictures and provide report on their field trip to Berkshire East's wind turbine. AR comments that it doesn't look as if roads were greatly widened to install a turbine of this size – possibly 12' roads with only one corner noticeably altered. Pictures are placed in the Wind Energy Information folder. AR suggests that the Board may want to consider visiting this turbine, as well as the one in Princeton, MA.
6. Wind Siting Advisory Committee will meet on Jan. 6, 2011 to discuss issues pertaining to noise.
7. Board discusses wind energy topics and reviews the wind ordinance draft. The following is discussed:
 - a. Section 6.3– MF hopes that the Wind Siting Advisory Committee will determine the exact decibel numbers to use;
 - b. Section 6.4.8 – Discussion of language: "Blasting of existing land forms..." and the possibility of changing it to "100 or 200 cubic yards," which is a common boundary between minor and major disruption. MF suggests possible language: "...in excess of 200 cubic yards..." The question is raised of how this could be monitored. MF responds that 205 cubic yards cannot be easily determined; 2000 cubic yards can be. PL asks if this is per turbine or per site?
 - c. Section 6.4.1 – Discussion of what constitutes fragmentation of open space;
 - d. Section 6.4.2 – Board decides to table this discussion;
 - e. Section 6.4.4 – Addition of language: "...previously developed commercial or industrial areas and access roads."
 - f. Section 6.4.5 – Discussion re: standards of environmental studies. Possible addition of language: "...applicant shall produce an environmental study from a wildlife scientist..."
 - g. Section 6.4.6 – 6.4.7 – Possibly remove section because it is in Conservation Commission jurisdiction;

- h. Section 6.4.9 – Artificial habitat for raptors – possibly change some language. MF would like to eliminate: *c) soil where weeds can accumulate*. The Board determines to table this for now;
- i. Section 6.5 – Visual /Cultural Impacts – AR presents maps that he and associate member Walter Cudnohufsky (WC) generated using Dodson’s guidelines based on the Open Space Maps. AR and WC’s project identifies that according to the information generated by the town (Open Space Maps) the only areas appropriate for wind energy is off Cape Street near Goshen and a spot in the Hawley-Watson area. The 1000’ setback (state recommendation) from residences as well as topography is not taken into account in the exercise; this may further limit locations for wind energy;
- j. MF asks Board members to number Section 6.5 in order of importance. MF comments that he would like to eliminate half of Section 6.5.
- k. Discussion: wind turbines and safety, in particular to trail usage / hunting in turbine areas. MF makes the connection to people hiking/hunting in woods and that both trees and wind turbines could fall on people, however it is a very rare event for a hiker to be hit by a falling tree. People are typically not out in hazardous weather (high wind, ice storm...) when there is a greater likelihood of falling branches or wind turbine ice throw. However, this type of damage is more likely to occur to structures/vehicles, which are out in inclement weather. He also states that people are assuming a certain amount of risk if they go near turbines.
- l. Section 6.6 – KM states that sometimes best management practices are not what is regulated / stipulated. Landscaping with native plants is discussed;
- m. Section 6.5.9 - Board agrees to strike this section.

Meeting adjourns at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Sussbauer