

**Planning Board
Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2010**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)
Alan Rice (AR)
Ken Miller (KM)
Sarah Holbrook (SH)
Judy Haupt (JH)
Walter Cudnohufsky (WC), Associate Member
Others Present: Lauren Preston-Wells

The meeting is called to order at 7:35 pm.

1. JH moves to accept the November 17, 2010 meeting minutes with revisions. KM seconds it and all vote in favor.
2. Board discusses the distinction between the dBA and dBC scales of measurement.
3. In regards to the information packet she presented to the Board at previous meetings, MF asks L. Preston-Wells if she could direct him to articles that would be appropriate for public education purposes. She agrees to do so.
4. MF reports that the Wind Siting Advisory Committee met this week and will meet again on December 9, 2010. Andrew Wells is chairperson, MF is vice-chair, T. Olanek is the secretary of the committee. MF presented the draft of the Planning Board's wind energy bylaw to the committee. MF also reports that the Select Board has expressed an interest in the town having a bylaw written and approved as soon as possible.
5. L. Preston-Wells asks, in general terms, how a permitting dispute could be resolved ("ultimate outcome") and the judicial process for such a dispute. The Board discusses the legal process and stages of a permitting dispute.
6. KM reports that he has learned some information regarding agricultural turbine use. He has learned that there has been some issue with actual energy outcome and what turbine manufacturers' claim. MF asks KM to research what size wind turbines are used in agriculture.
7. Board discusses wind energy topics and reviews the wind ordinance draft edited by AR. The following is discussed:
 - a. Section 4.2 – Setbacks – The main questions is: What is reasonable for Ashfield? If a ½ mile is standard setback for a 500' turbine, it might mean that Ashfield will only allow 400' turbine due to the size of the town. The state website is citing 1000 feet from the turbine to the nearest residence. WC provides an example of the situation in Prince Edward Island regarding turbine noise and setbacks. MF directs the group to examine the Mass GIS map for buffer areas. WC states that it might be helpful to develop mapping so the town could decide if a wind zone would be appropriate. The question is also asked if setbacks should be considered for one windmill or for groupings or both. MF comments that the town should legislate for a type of windmill that is appropriate for Ashfield and it may take ten years for manufacturers to develop this type of windmill;
 - b. Section 4.2.1 – Board eliminates option;

- c. Section 5.0 – Board agrees to further examine issue of ice throw. Discussion moves to lightening and earthquake protection. MF states that building code is incorporating seismic standards;
- d. Section 5.1 – Color and Finish – AR will email a source that expands on this issue;
- e. Section 5.2.1 – Lighting – Removal of language “...emitting diode...” and “...to minimize confusion...” Board discusses that the phrase “...reasonably shielded...” is too soft. Board adds: “light shall shine up and be shielded from the ground to minimize light pollution.”
- f. Section 5.2.3 – Utility Connection – Board discusses whether to require and which conditions would merit underground or above ground transmission lines. If too much blasting must occur for underground installation, it seems logical to have it placed above or on the ground;
- g. Section 5.4 – Change section title to “Accessory.” Language removal / change: “...access for emergency vehicles...” Board discusses “year-round vegetation” and screening by vegetation or other acceptable methods;
- h. Section 5.5 – Language change: “...co-location may be allowed by another Special Permit through the Planning Board...”
- i. Section 5.6 – Removal of section;
- j. Section 5.7 – WC states that stronger language needs to be incorporated;
- k. Section 5.9 – MF will call the Building Inspector regarding this section.

Meeting adjourns at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Sussbauer