

**Planning Board
Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2011**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)
Alan Rice (AR)
Sarah Holbrook (SH)
Lauren Preston-Wells
Walt Cudnohufsky (WC), Associate Member

Others Present: Members of the Wind Siting Advisory Committee - Andy Wells (AW), Brian Clark (BC), Anne Yuryan (AY), Ron Coler (RC)

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

1. Review of mail.
2. It has come to the attention of the Board that the meeting was posted on the town website but not on the bulletin board. The Board discusses whether to postpone the meeting or to continue. After some discussion, it is agreed that the Board will meet for a discussion but will not vote on any items.
3. Conversation with members of the Wind Siting Advisory Committee and overview of the Town of Ashfield, MA Wind Siting Standards (revised May 17, 2011) draft. The following items are discussed:
 - a. Explanation of A and C noise;
 - b. *Audible Sound Limit* section - the group discusses that even with these limits there is no guarantee that a sound sensitive person will not be affected at this measurement. The Committee is advising that the noise limit not exceed 32.5 dBA. The Committee has learned that most complaints begin when people are experiencing turbine noise registering in the low 30 dBA;
 - c. MF questions the meaning of the "one mile or more from state highways..." AW comments that this will be reviewed further;
 - d. AW states that the 32.dBA does take into account the way sound can fluctuate in Ashfield's landscape (an example is given of Hull, MA and that a different sound level may be appropriate for this suburban town already accustomed to a turbine and Logan Airport fly-over noise);
 - e. RC stresses the importance of educating the public about the differences between dBA and dBC. He states that dBC tends to be more disturbing;
 - f. Requirements of the sound study;
 - g. The Planning Board and Wind Siting Advisory Committee discuss how to proceed with this project. MF comments that that the document the Planning Board is currently drafting needs one more run-through before it is given to other departments and groups for review. AR states that he is relying on the Advisory Committee for their findings to incorporate it into the by-law;

Meeting adjourns at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Sussbauer