

Planning Board
Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2011

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)
Ken Miller (KM)
Sarah Holbrook (SH)
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)
Alan Rice (AR)

Others Present: Charles Ross

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

1. SH moves to accept the August 17, 2011 meeting minutes. KM seconds it and all vote in favor.
2. Update regarding the Photovoltaic section to Bylaws – there will be a Special Town meeting on September 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm. MF has offered to read the entire document out loud at the meeting.
3. Discussion regarding GAW and tower placement. MF reports that it appears as if GAW could apply for one special permit for multiple towers. The bylaw requires applicants to submit a plan illustrating tower placement and potential need for future tower sites. SH comments that it might make sense to understand the entire scope of the project in one hearing and for the town and GAW to see potential areas of concern. AR expresses concern that having one special permit for multiple towers may create a precedent. J. Hawkins has not received an application from GAW. SH makes a motion for MF to email D. Kulp / GAW with the news that the Planning Board might consider a permit for multiple towers. AR seconds it and all vote in favor.
4. MF reports that J. Hawkins has not received any applications from L. Roberts pertaining to the gasification project.
5. Board reviews the 5.18.11 draft of the *Ashfield Wind Facilities bylaw*. The following items are discussed:
 - a. MF provides summary of the previous meeting's edits
 - b. 2.0 Definitions – removal of language "...at times when the sun is shining...."
 - c. Non-Commercial Wind Facility definition – possibly move last line to Section 3.3. MF will consult electricians re: electrical code
 - d. Definition of Shadowing– addition of language – "nearby properties"
 - e. Wind Turbine definition – removal of last sentence
 - f. Possibly rewrite Wind Turbine Setback (Section 2.0 Definition)
 - g. 3.1.1 – second and third sentence should be separated and made into individual bulleted items.
 - h. 3.1.3.b.ii – substitute "will" for "can"
 - i. In regards to SH's comment to review turbine installations sooner rather than later, MF states that it may be too restrictive to permit installations for far less than the life-expectancy of the turbine.
 - j. MF proposes to continue working on this document with the goal of bringing it to town meeting within a year.
6. LPW provides summary of Wind Siting hearing at Jiminy Peak.

- a. The biggest concern for many people is the loss of local control. It seems as if the decisions of the Energy Siting Board of each town can waive town bylaws and the state Energy Board can waive all local and state laws.
- b. Other people are concerned with the process timetable – may be too restrictive for towns to make informed decisions.
- c. There is concern with how to work with projects that affect abutting towns.

Meeting adjourns at 9:30 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Barb Sussbauer