

**Planning Board
Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2011**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)
Sarah Holbrook (SH)
Ken Miller (KM)
Alan Rice (AR)

Others Present: Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)

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

1. Review of mail.
2. MF informs Planning Board he has been invited to an upcoming Select Board meeting, to present budgetary needs for the Planning Board for the next fiscal year. MF suggests the Board ask for the same amount as this year's budget - \$600.00. Most of this (\$500.00) pays Barb Sussbauer (BS) for her duties as clerk, with the remaining amount for various needs (such as advertising, mailings, other). SH moves MF to ask for \$600.00 for the Planning Board for FY 2012. KM seconds and all vote in favor.
3. Discussion about upcoming town caucus on March 22nd and need to fill Judy Haupt's position. Discussion follows as to status of alternate Board member Walt Cudnohufsky (WC). Earlier this year WC had agreed to fill in Judy's position until elections in May. It was noted that WC – as an alternate member – could only vote on Special Permit applications. In order to vote on all Board business he will need to be appointed as a full member by the Select Board. Additionally, KM's term expires this year; he informs the Board he will run for another term.
4. MF reminds the Board of an email announcement of an upcoming hearing of MassDOT regarding the Ashfield retaining wall projects (along route 116). As part of this process MassDOT requires the publish date of the Ashfield Open Space Plan. MF to contact MassDOT with this information.
5. AR notes it appears none of the Planning Board has a final copy of the Ashfield Open Space Plan. It is recommended he check with the town clerk or with BS to obtain a copy. MF requests contacting BS also for a copy of the final subdivision regulation, which the town clerk needs to put on the town website.
6. AR inquires about the Green Communities Committee formed by the Select Board and the details around the town working toward green energy status. He will contact SB member Norm Russell with questions on status of committee and whether this would affect town control over the siting of wind turbines.
7. Board discusses wind energy topics and reviews the wind ordinance draft. The following is discussed:
 - a. Section 6.7.1– Addition of language so that first sentence reads, "Applicant shall insure that no state and/or local road, or related structures be permanently altered in such a manner as to significantly disrupt use of roads in question..." Discussion of the need to be more specific on language "...aesthetics and cultural characteristics..." in latter part of first sentence. Discussion of adding language on tree protection, such as, "Applicant shall not cut trees greater than ___" diameter without permission of the Planning Board or Tree Warden." (Diameter of tree to be determined at a later date.)

- b. Section 6.7.2 – Discussion on the need for Applicant to identify – on a map – roads to be used for wind facility installation. The map requirement that should be included in Section 13.0 – Application Procedures;
- c. Section 6.7.3 – Change language in beginning of first sentence to, “The Town Highway Superintendent...”
- d. Section 6.7.5 – Could possibly go in Section 13.0 – Application Procedures;
- e. Section 6.7.6 – Discussion of adding language that Planning Board may request a bond if there are significant alterations to infrastructure;
- f. Section 6.8 – Suggestion to strike, as language already exists in Special Permit application language;
- g. Section 6.9.1 – MF suggests asking the Town Fire Chief what language he would like to see in this section;
- h. Section 6.9.2 – Possibly is already state law. Suggestion to ask Fire Chief about this;
- i. Section 6.10 – Suggestion to change language to read, “Any expansion of, or change to, conditions of the Special Permit shall require approval by the Special Permit Granting Authority.” Suggestion to move this section to Section 7.0 – Monitoring and Maintenance, and place it next to Section 7.2 – Facility Conditions & Maintenance;
- j. Section 7.1.1 – Discussion that future state wind siting bylaw may require Owner/Operator to provide Town with a certain percentage of electricity, at a cut rate. KM notes this is listed on line 129 of last draft of state wind siting bylaw;
- k. Section 7.1.2 – Suggestion to require submittal of weather data, sound data. Suggestion that Board of Health will most likely ask for an annual report from Owner/Operator;
- l. Section 7.2 – MF suggests striking last part of last sentence: ...”and the cost of repairing and damage occurring as a result of operation and construction.”, as it is already in another section.

Meeting adjourns at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Rice (substituting for Barb Sussbauer)