



Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

PLANNING BOARD

February 11, 2010

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Frank Higgins, Tom Vanchieri, Gary Poisson, Henry Hodges, Jeff Thurlow, Gretchen Heldmann, Susan Dunham-Shane, Russell Smith, Town Manager. Charles Norburg had an excused absence.

MINUTES: Motion to accept the minutes, after changing the date from February 2 to February 4, by Henry Hodges, Jeff Thurlow 2nd. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: This meeting was a Windmill Ordinance Workshop. Mark Shane was present to do a demonstration of different sound wave frequencies and answer questions from the Board. Some of the information shared included:

His demonstration showed the difference between "A" weighting and "C" weighting frequencies. "A" weighting filters out low frequencies where "C" does not.

Sound drops 6 decibels with every doubling of distance

Low frequencies can cause pressure in the ear and nausea.

Low frequencies can wrap around objects, while high frequencies do not wrap around and diminish quicker. They travel in a straight line.

Blades on the windmill will create waves that are out of sink, so that when those waves combine, they will create a third pressure wave. The swooshing sound would be the different frequencies combining.

The sound will be affected by the terrain of the area, the wind direction, humidity, temperature, and barometric pressure.

Frank questioned why the Ordinance specified 1/3 octave measurement, but had no reference to restriction rules or how they applied. Mark Shane explained 1/3 octave. An octave would be 12 piano keys, (8 whole notes) 6 black and 6 white keys. 1/3 octave is 4 piano keys, 2 black and 2 white. Measuring these 4 notes only will produce a finer resolution measurement system. It would break down the noise into smaller sounds and then combine them to get an average.

There were also questions on 5 dB penalty, tones and EIC 61400-11, which will be revisited.

Wind noise will add to the mechanical noise of the windmill.

Susan expressed her concern with the changes made to the set-back requirements at the last meeting, which she could not attend. Set back is based on distance from the blade. The height of the tower include the full swing of the blade.

Frank will email Randall, of Dixmont, and ask him what justification they used for each setback and let the Board know at the next meeting.

The windmills in Mars Hill are 1.5 megahertz, about 400' and the new ones are 2.5 megahertz so they would be even larger.

Noise, flicker and ice throw are items that will concern residents and will need to be addressed.

Everyone needs to research these three items to get a better understanding of them to be able to justify any decisions on set backs.

Driver distraction by movement of blades may be another concern.

Action List:

1. Frank to email Dixmont to find out their basis for setbacks.
2. Reach decision of whether to go with the Ordinance levels or World Health Organization levels on sound. Gretchen mentioned the possibility of changing the 100' setback to 300' from occupied structures in reference to noise.
3. Blasting – decide whether to use applicant plan or something else.
4. Shadow Flicker and Blade Glint – Henry and Jeff will read through flicker section and with other information inform the Board on their findings.
5. Review the Stray Voltage and Assessment and Requirements section.
6. Fire Prevention – Print the Fire Prevention and Emergency Response Plan and Requirements for Fire Chief to get his opinion.
7. Inspections – Play with the wording to make it clear who hires and who pays.

Section VI – Operational License will probably require a meeting on this section alone, along with Section VII – Fees and Costs.

The Board will need to see all reports from State and Federal Agencies including but not limited to the ones listed.

Board members should review the wording of Section VIII – Expiration of Site Permit Approval and WEF Operational License and Section XI – Severability; Conflicts with Other Ordinances, Laws and Regulations; Appeal.

There have been no studies done by U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife on migratory birds.

Peter Lyford informed the Board that in reference to the Dixmont Ordinance Setbacks, a developer would probably not be able to put a Windmill in that town because of the setbacks. He also told them that Gary Seviano and Paul Fuller of Oak Hill Developers have approached the Boy Scouts for an easement across their property. They are proposing a Windmill project in which Phase 1 would erect 1 to 5 windmills and Phase 2 would involve 6-8 windmills on Pliska Mountain in Clifton. It is located between Fitts Pond and Springy Pond.

NEW BUSINESS: Russell passed out a letter from the state on Subdivisions, and two books on the Penobscot Valley Community Greenprint to each Board member.

OTHER BUSINESS: The next meetings will be Monday, February 22, 2010 with Renaissance and Thursday, February 25, 2010 for Windmills.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by Gretchen Heldmann, Susan Dunham-Shane 2nd. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowles