



Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

PLANNING BOARD

February 25, 2010

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

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

MINUTES: Motion to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting after changing megahertz to megawatts at the bottom of the first page by Gretchen Heldmann, Gary Poisson 2nd. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: This meeting was a Windmill Ordinance Workshop. Discussion continued and included some of the following items:

Susan Dunham-Shane shared some particulars about windmills that she had learned in her research from Clipper Liberty. The windmill blades are 135' long, the Hub Height is 262', the full tower height is 398', 1.32 acres are swept by the blades, it has a maximum tip speed of 164 mph and the optimal output is 34 mph. For reference when referring to the amount of electricity produced, a kilowatt is 1000 watts and a megawatt is a million watts.

Frank emailed Randall Fairman of the Dixmont Planning Board to ask him how they came to the decisions on setbacks in their Ordinance. Mr. Fairman explained that they too agreed that ice throw and noise were two very important issues to address. In summary, their Board felt that the strict sound regulations would be better served and easier to enforce with the setback restrictions being set to coincide with them, thus creating a more black and white setback that would be easier to enforce. The 5280' setback from existing residences was most important because they found that the sound levels at these sites regularly exceeded the sound levels of their ordinance. The Board then continued their discussion of setbacks. It was suggested that possibly they could do a paper explaining setbacks, sound regulations, etc and hand it out at the Town Meeting and then have a Public Hearing to get opinion.

The setback requirements were adjusted to:

- B. Change 1000' back to 2500' from property line
- C. Change 1000' from any public way to 2500' from any State or Federal Highway and 1500' from any Town Road or Private Way.
- D. Change 1000' back to 1200' from above-ground utility. They would like Russell to check with the Utility Companies.
- E. Change 2640' back to 5280' from any residence
- F. Add "existing" before "Occupied Structure". Add "This setback cannot be waived by a mitigation Agreement."
- H. Add "setbacks to be measured from the blades."

The Board continued their discussion of item C, public ways setbacks. Charles questioned that a road will be considered a nonparticipating parcel and would then be the 2500' setback, thus changing the Town Road and Private way setbacks. They would like to flag this area of the ordinance as a question for the attorney to sort out when he reviews the Ordinance.

Susan had prepared a Request for Moratorium on Windmill Applications sheet for the Town Warrant. The Board reviewed it and made some suggestions. She will work on it and get a final draft to Russell.

Russell will talk to Jim Ellis more about Fire Prevention.

They will revisit flicker at the next meeting.

Sound limits were discussed. All members present are happy with staying with the Dixmont Ordinance figures. They are very close to the World Health Organization figures. Though there does not seem to be a lot of information available about wildlife impacts, they feel the sound section should cover this.

The Board will continue working on their Action List at the next meeting. They would like to add revisiting page 1, Section II to be very clear on what it applies to and what it does not apply to.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER BUSINESS: The next meetings will be Wednesday, March 3, 2010 with Renaissance and Thursday, March 11, 2010 there is nothing else on the agenda so it will be another Windmills Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by Gary Poisson, Gretchen Heldmann 2nd. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowles