



Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

PLANNING BOARD

March 11, 2010

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

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

MINUTES: Motion to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2010 meeting as written by Henry Hodges, Gary Poisson 2nd. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Jeff Thurlow questioned the Board as to if someone wants to change covenants on a MYLAR, whether they have to come back before the Board. He will look into it more regarding his subdivision.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: This meeting was a Windmill Ordinance Workshop. The Board discussed that there would be a Public Hearing on the Town Budget and warrant articles, which include the article for a Moratorium on Wind Energy Facilities on March 16, 2010. Russell has given James Ellis, Fire Chief, a copy of the Fire Prevention Section in the Ordinance and he has not heard back from him yet.

PUBLIC ACCESS: There were three gentlemen present representing the Boy Scouts. Andy Hamilton, President of the Katahdin Council Inc, addressed the Board regarding the possibility of development of a Wind Energy Facility on the Boy Scout land on Blackcap Mountain. They are looking into ways to fund the operating council, because telecom is not providing enough revenue back to the scouts. They have met with some of the neighbors and wanted to contact the Town to keep good dialog with the Town.

He wondered if the Town would like to hear from developers before they decide on the Wind Ordinance. Mr. Hamilton explained that he was involved in the Oakfield Wind Ordinance project and with that project a noise consultant was retained by the Town and paid for by the applicant. They are currently in a fact finding mode for Eddington and do not have a project bearing down on the Town for development. He explained that a one-mile setback would basically end a windmill project and that there will not be a project unless there is agreement on the project.

The Board explained that their reason for the moratorium was to allow themselves adequate time to research all areas of the Wind Ordinance and present a thorough Ordinance to the residents. One of the largest discussions is on low-frequency sound and its effects on sleep deprivation. Lack of information

on wildlife impact is another area of concern. They explained that part of their reasoning for a one-mile setback is the enforceability of noise limits in an ordinance on a legal stand point. Mr. Hamilton will talk with Kalisky, a noise consultant from Vermont, regarding their experience with this.

Mr. Hamilton suggested that the Boy Scouts could possibly bring a developer to Public Hearings with the residents to inform everyone about such things as noise and environmental effects and economic benefit, before a Windmill Ordinance is established. Gary Saviganao, of Katahdin Area Boy Scouts, explained that the Scouts are a model for the youth and they need to be sure that a project is carefully thought out. The Scouts are a good institutional citizen with Eddington and they care about what the Board is doing.

Josh Broder of Tilton Technologies explained that there is not a market for wind energy right now because natural gas price is down, but they want to keep this option available. He said that it is a challenging time to get developers attention because of the market and it will be even harder with a moratorium, because developers have a different understanding of the purpose of a moratorium. To the developer, it will appear that this is not a community that wants wind energy.

Mr. Hamilton said the Board could talk to Dale Morris, the Town Manager of Oakfield, Ken Kalisky, a noise consultant of Vermont and could check the 45 page report on the Oakfield Website. It was a four-month process and DEP issued a permit to the Developer. Two groups have filed paperwork against the development one citing visibility issues and another regarding noise. Mr. Hamilton will be stepping down as President and Ernie Kilbright will be taking his position in a few months. First Wind is represented by Verrill and Dana. The Boy Scouts will have a discussion with the Mountainy Pond Club before the project is developed.

OTHER BUSINESS: The next meetings will be Monday, March 22, 2010 with Renaissance and Thursday, March 25, 2010 will be a regular meeting and Windmill Workshop. The election of the municipal officers will be Monday, March 29, 2010 at the Town Office, with the Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Eddington School.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm by Gary Poisson, Frank Higgins 2nd. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowles