

Hamlin Wind Tower Committee *Minutes*
Tuesday, April 3, 2007
7:00pm

The regular scheduled meeting of the Hamlin Wind Tower Committee was held in the Hamlin Town Hall located at 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin and was called to order by the Chairman Mark Reeves at 7:00pm with the location of the exits and defibulator explained for those present.

Present: Jerry Borkholder, Linda DeRue, Ed Haight, Dave Lukas, Glen Quetschenbach, Mark Reeves and Andy Simpson.

Excused: Ed Evans

Also present: Councilperson Mike Marchetti, Planning Board member Tom Jensen, Conservation Board member Tom Breslawski, residents Jack Shelvin, Aaron LaFaro, Troy Nesbitt, Tony Callari, Nicholas Breslawski, Judith and Edward Doan, Kathy Habgood, Renee Cliff, Kim Spellan, Ann Yockel, Joe Luciano, Jeanine Craft and several other interested residents.

DISCUSSION AND TASK BREAKDOWN

Chairman Mark Reeves explained the chart of objectives that he handed out to the Committee members. He explained that each member could sign up to research an item, give a start date and end date. The target date for the Committee to have the report done to hand over to the Town Board would be December 4. The Committee went down each objective and added items to each that needed to be researched. Jerry Borkholder stated that he would rather tackle one topic at a time and exhaust it. He stated that he couldn't follow the chart. Noise was used as an example. Mark explained that someone needed to list the negatives and references for the information. They should include the level, receptiveness, type of noise, low frequency and sub sonic noise. Then a report would be completed by the committee member on the information that they researched. It would be presented to the Wind Tower Committee for "peer" review and then put into the notebook to be handed over to the Town Board in December to help them make their final decisions. Jerry again stated that he was very confused. Mark explained his action item chart again and stated that they were just trying to come up with a list of topics with action items to research for the 8 Objectives in the Charter. Dave Lukas suggested putting everyone's list that they brought into Mark's chart. Mark agreed and stated if anyone had a list to get it to him and he would add it. How to assess the Town's opinion was discussed. Linda DeRue suggested mailing out a letter to all the residents notifying them about the towers. Ed Haight suggested including a survey to get a response back from the residents. Jerry Borkholder stated that he felt it was too soon to do a survey and suggested they wait until the end to do a survey. Andy Simpson suggested exploring the number of towers, possible other sites and possible benefits so the information can be included in the letter to the residents. Glen Quetschenbach stated that according to the Zoning Code wind towers would be allowed in other locations in town. Jerry added that if

the wind isn't the same in other areas they could just increase the size of the tower. Mark explained that they could regulate the height of the towers. Mark suggested doing a phone survey. Andy asked if the Committee could work on the questions together for the phone survey. Mark stated that they would use an independent firm to do the survey but they could come up with some questions. Jerry stated that he didn't like the phone survey idea. Linda agreed with Jerry. Mark stated that they need to make sure that the people that are surveyed by phone are residents. In the past there were some problems with people filling out paper surveys multiple times. Dave asked about Ed Evans. Mark stated that he thought he was in Florida on vacation. Mark also explained that the Town Board would hold Public Hearings to inform the public also. Communicating with other municipalities that have wind towers was discussed. Checking state wide and nationally was suggested. Questions to ask other towns were discussed. Some questions mentioned were complaints, how they were handled, town regulations, studies completed, effects on wild life, economic gains. Mark stated that a volunteer is needed to make a list of questions and get addresses to Heather so letters can be mailed out to different towns for responses. It was discussed that the Town Supervisors would be the best contacts. Linda stated that they could be one-sided depending if they were for or against wind towers. Mark stated that it would be good to talk with them and trade information. Jerry stated that Glen and himself went to other towns and talked with the Supervisors about wind towers already. He stated that just talking to one person was not a good idea because they could skew the results. He stated that he wasn't sure they could get straight answers. Mark said he had confidence in the committee for good data. Mark suggested that the Committee work on a list of questions to ask other towns for the next meeting. Jerry volunteered to develop a survey. Linda questioned the budget. Ed Haight suggested meeting with the Town Supervisors during their visits to the Towns. Researching and identifying the benefits was discussed. Obtaining "best practices" for Turbine installations from other Towns was explained. Researching how to get the best benefits was discussed. Glen asked if Mr. Spitzer would help with regulations. Mark explained that that they should get the questions completed first before they meet with a professional. Jerry stated that he would rather be able to call the professional up whenever he has a question and get an answer right away. Mark stated that he preferred having a meeting with the professional with an agenda and minutes. Jerry stated that it should be decided as a committee. Mark stated that he already made a recommendation regarding this. A discussion took place regarding hiring a consultant and getting answers as a group. Jerry stated that they need legal advice when the questions arise. Linda asked about using the current Attorney of if they could hire another Attorney. Mark stated that he would ask Denny about it. Dave stated that he talked with Denny and the hiring of Mr. Spitzer was accidentally left off of the agenda at last month's meeting but they will address it at their next meeting. Researching the benefits was discussed. Dave volunteered to research the benefits. Financial benefits for the Town were discussed. Glen stated that the Town would determine how the money would be used. Jerry asked if they could add exploring the differences between pilot vs. table base plans. It was explained that the tax base plan taxes just the turbine. Host agreements, boundary agreements, tourist attractions and jobs created were discussed. The agreements could be determined by the regulations. Negatives associated with Wind Towers were discussed. Stray flicker effects, stray voltage, seizures, water tables, wildlife effects including birds,

bats and butterflies, effects on land owners and neighbors, results if projects fail, county and state benefits available, effects on the town, possible business risks, machine efficiency were discussed. Jerry questioned the wording. Mark stated that this is just a draft and they can always make changes. Dave asked if the comparison section could be eliminated because it just confused the issue. Identifying the Impact of wind towers on infrastructure was discussed. The effects on roads, landscaping, traffic and underground surface. They discussed developing regulations and talking with other towns. Defining wind towers was discussed also private and commercial – regulations are needed for both. Mark stated that if the members had their lists tonight they could give them to him. They need to populate the action item chart and sign up for items with start and complete dates. The Committee will have to be complete by December 4. The moratorium ends January 15 so that gives the Town Board about 6 weeks to review the research that the Committee provides them with so they can make the final decisions. Andy stated that they can get an extension on the moratorium. Mark stated that the Committee Charter states they will be done in December. After that the Town Board can go for a moratorium extension. Jerry asked for an explanation and suggested looking at the negatives first as a committee. Mark stated that if they each sign up for a topic and work in parallel towards the objectives they can accomplish more. Then write a report, submit it and discuss it, modify it, add it to the workbook, check it off as complete and move onto the next objective. Dave asked if the research would be discussed. Mark said yes, when you have it complete it will be added to the agenda to discuss at the next meeting. Dave asked if everyone would agree on it. Mark stated no. When each report is complete by a member make sure each member gets a copy to review prior to the meeting. Dave volunteered to take a decibel reading and pictures at his house the same time every day with his decibel meter. Linda stated that she has already started researching the negatives and some of the references are from individuals. She asked if this would be accepted. Mark stated yes just indicate it was from personal experience. Mark explained that they are just providing the research for the Town Board so they can make the final decision.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Glen Quetschenbach, seconded by Ed Haight to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2007 with the correction under charter discussion to reflect that Mark stated he wouldn't be flexible to try something different not that he would think about it and under round table discussion a correction that Dave Lukas didn't receive an email from Allegheny Energy he received an email about Allegheny Energy. Members polled, all ayes.

Reviewing Open Forum comments was discussed. Alternative sites were discussed. Maps, open areas, recommended setbacks, health and safety research was discussed. Jerry suggested putting the questions and answers on the web site next to the person name. Matt asked if there were any Wetland restrictions. Dave stated that he called the DEC and the State regulation is 100' from wetlands and the Federal doesn't have a restriction. Mark suggested writing a letter to the other Boards asking for their input. Mark volunteered to write the letter. Mark will schedule some time at the next meeting for LWRP discussion. Renee asked about affects on ground water. The committee

determined that the Town Engineer would be the best person to answer that question. Studies by the Developer would have to be conducted prior to the towers being approved. Tony asked about property values. It was determined that a study again by the Developer would need to be done. Linda volunteered to do the research. Alfred asked what happens if the project fails. The Town Attorney would determine the regulations and make the specifics. Lost revenue with increased capital expenditures was discussed. Dave volunteered to do the research. Sue asked about health effects. Mark stated that would be answered in the main body. Kathy asked about noise. Mark stated that would be answered in the main body. Nick asked about bird kill. That would be answered in the main body also.

Trip to Fenner was discussed. Mark explained that Art had previously gathered information on a trip to Fenner. A resident (found out after meeting) would be available to meet with the committee on April 26. The total travel time would be 5 hours. Jerry suggested that just the Committee go. Linda agreed it should just be the Committee. Dave suggested that a Saturday trip would be better. Mark said he would call and get information. Shawn Lessord was willing to make arrangements for a trip to the Bechtold Wind Turbine installation in Ontario NY. Jerry stated that was not a good trip – too small. Mark asked if he could still go – Jerry said OK.

Public Forum was discussed. Mark suggested reducing the public forum time to give the committee more time to work on the objectives. The Committee agreed on 30 minutes for Public Forum. Moving it to the beginning of the meeting was discussed. Mark stated that he would keep it at the end of the meeting for a couple more times. Jerry stated that he was being flexible. Mark stated that he was like Gumby.

Mark stated that he has a correspondence received list available for all of the information that they have been receiving.

Mark stated that it has been suggested that there be time after a motion is made for discussion.

Having Duncan McEachern attend the meetings was discussed – Committee discussed and a consensus was had for assembling questions and inviting him in as needed.

Mark asked about the conference call between Dave, Denny and Mr. Spitzer because of the conflicting information that they received from him. Dave stated that Denny preferred not to have a conference call and the Town Board would discuss the hiring of Mr. Spitzer at their next meeting.

The Board thanked Glen for making the model of the wind tower. Glen explained that how it is displayed represents a 1,000' setback. Mark stated that with 1,000' setbacks 72 acres are needed.

Linda asked about a Vice Chairman. Mark stated that he will consider it. He would like the opportunity to discuss it with the committee member first. Linda also asked about

mailing out a letter to the residents. Denny included a letter in the Hamlin Newsletter that was mailed out to all of the residents. Ed suggested mailing out a survey to the residents.

Article 10 and eminent domain were discussed. Dave explained that he couldn't find any information on these two items and stated that is what he would like Mr. Spitzer's input on.

Mark stated that Jim Alesi is presenting legislation for a uniform code statewide on wind towers. An 18-month moratorium is being proposed. Writing a letter to Mr. Alesi was suggested with the committees concerns and views.

Jerry wanted to revisit the letters to the paper written by members. He stated he doesn't like it and they shouldn't write them as members they should be written as residents because that is not the opinion of the Committee. Mike Marchetti stated that the paper indicated wind tower members at the end of the letters and they will be putting a correction in the next issue.

Dave stated that according to Maple Ridge the effects on the birds and bats that are being killed is substantially higher than the study that was conducted due to when the study was conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Glen Quetschenbach, seconded by Linda DeRue to adjourn tonight's meeting barring any further business. Members polled, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Heather Norman
Clerk to the Support Boards

The next Committee meeting will be April 17, 2007 at 7:00pm.