

Hamlin Wind Tower Committee *Minutes*
Tuesday, June 5, 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 Chairperson Linda DeRue at 7:00pm with the location of the exits and defibulator explained for those present.

Present: Jerry Borkholder, Linda DeRue, Tom Jensen, Dave Lukas, Mark Reeves (late) and Andy Simpson.

Absent: Lester Wilson

Also present: Planning Board member David Martin, Conservation Board member Tom Breslawski, Recreation Commissioner Stan Lyons, residents Dorothy and Paul Lapinski, Matt MacDonald, Troy Nesbitt, Kathy Habgood, Diane Grimm, Aaron LaFaro, Jack and Chris Shevlin and several other interested residents.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTARY

Chairperson Linda DeRue went over an outline to be used when exploring issues. The pros and cons will be listed and put into one report to submit to the Town Board.

Linda also let everyone know that she invited Dr. Matt MacDonald to help with Dave's noise presentation.

A motion was made by Tom Jensen, seconded by Andy Simpson to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2007 meeting as written. Members polled, all ayes. Minutes approved.

Unfinished Business

Jerry Borkholder read a statement regarding equal rights for everyone.

A motion was made by Jerry Borkholder, seconded by Dave Lukas for the Committee to base its decisions on the preservation of the rights of all of the residents of Hamlin.

Tom Jensen wanted clarified that they would be protecting the rights of all of the people including the Town of Hamlin and all of its residents. The Committee agreed. Members polled, all ayes.

Reports:

Community Relations

Jerry Borkholder stated that he has received some suggested topics for the informational meetings from residents.

1. Global warming
2. Health issues
3. Explore the efficiency of all other energy concepts and compare them

Tom Jensen reminded the Committee that they have been asked to research Wind Towers. He suggested that the Committee not get caught up in researching other issues that are not relevant to Wind Towers. Andy Simpson agreed that they need to concentrate on issues related to Wind Towers. Jerry Borkholder stated that there would be no harm in sitting down with residents and discussing the other issues. Linda DeRue stated that because it would not take time from the regular meetings she agreed to add these topics to the list.

Boundaries

Jerry Borkholder stated that some residents are concerned about the boundary between Kendall and Hamlin. They are concerned if Kendall agrees to have Wind Towers this could affect the residents along the boundary. Jerry has sent an email to the Kendall Supervisor and Planning Board Chairman regarding these concerns. He would like to meet with them regarding reaching a common ground on this matter. He is waiting to hear back.

Students Questions

Jerry Borkholder stated that Linda DeRue asked him to answer the 14 questions submitted to the Committee from a Hilton Class. He stated that he emailed the answers to the Committee members. Tom Jensen did not receive them. He read a response letter from the teacher thanking the Board for their help and for taking the time to answer the questions her students have.

Jerry also wanted to address the questions that the public has asked of the Committee. It was suggested that the public write down their questions along with their names and submit them to the Committee and the Committee will do their best to get the answers. The Committee agreed to review the answers as a Committee first. Linda will ask Mark Reeves if he has a list of the questions that have been asked previously. If not they could use the minutes.

Trip to Fenner

Jerry Borkholder brought in two DVDs to share with everyone. His observation of Fenner was that there were not many houses located in the area close to the Wind Towers. The towers are very large but are shorter than 400'. The sound depended on where you were standing. It was the quietest right under the tower. At 800' away you could hear the towers. The noise also depended on if you were standing in front of or behind the tower. The sound was different based on where you were standing.

The first DVD is a Fenner Wind Tower promo and the second is an interview with a Fenner resident. The DVDs were played.

Jerry stated that there were two different views from Fenner residents. He also has two letters from Fenner residents and two press releases regarding the towers in Fenner.

Dave Lukas gave readings taken in Fenner. At 255' from the tower it was 56 decibels. At 354' it was 54 decibels. At 600' it was 44 decibels. Dave stated that 44 decibels was

used as a control. The reading was at 39 decibels inside the van. At 621' it was 47-54 decibels and the speed was constant. At 1050' it was 50 decibels. At 1400' it was 54 decibels. At 1434' it was 54 decibels and a car driving by was 70 decibels. The DEC considers anything over 6 decibels to be noise. Dave also noted that the existing trees in the area absorb some of the noise. Dave read a quote from the Fenner New Wind Energy Site that claims that the blades are designed to be high efficiency with undetectable noise. He stated that was not found. Dave also visited the Lowville site a couple of weeks ago. The sites have been fenced off since last year when he visited. He talked to a local farmer and the farmer told him that the towers are 4 times louder than what was promised by the developer. Dave stated that the towers in Lowville were very loud.

Dr. Matt MacDonald gave a sound reading demonstration. He took a reading of 34 decibels when the room was quiet. Then he turned on a tape of a wind tower. The reading was 50.5 decibels. He turned the tape down to 42.5 decibels and the sound was noted. He stated that the difference is the sound from the wind towers is constant and you can't move away from the noise. The noise depends on the source of the sound. Tom Jensen noted that he could hear the towers better when he was upwind from them versus downwind.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tom Jensen, seconded by Dave Lukas 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 June 19, 2007 at 7:00pm.