

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

Present: Jerry Borkholder, Tom Jensen, Dave Lukas, Stan Lyons, Linda Morey, Andy Simpson, and Linda DeRue.

Absent: Mark Reeves and Lester Wilson

Also present: Alternate member Mike Baker, Conservation Board members Tom Breslawski and Aaron LaFaro, residents Dorothy and Paul Lapinski, Ed and Judy Doan and Troy Nesbitt.

**OPEN FORUM**

Dorothy Lapinski of 417 Redman Road stated that an important issue has been overlooked at the meetings dealing with setbacks and noise. She referred to the Lakeside Cemetery located on Moscow Road. This is the final resting place for friends and loved ones, a place of peace and quiet where we can go and pay our respects and reflect on loved ones who have passed away. Lakeside Cemetery should not be located in the middle of an industrial park and that is what this area would become if 400' industrial wind turbines were allowed within 2600' of such a solemn place. She feels the wind turbines would violate the serenity of the cemetery with all the distractions such as noise, flicker and the size not to mention the possibility of the area becoming a tourist attraction. She feels the 2600' is not ample for the cemetery and suggests a minimum of 1.5 miles or more setback from the cemetery out of respect and to allow for expansion of the cemetery.

Ed Doan of 1263 Redman Road congratulated the committee on making some recommendations at the last meeting but feels the committee should be uniform with what other communities have established. He feels they are out of whack on the setback regulation and feels they are wasting their time. Dave Lukas stated the 2600' setback was based on information from a study done by the National Academy of Science. This is new information that has come out recently. Sound is a real issue that is handled at the 2640' setback.

Judy Doan of 1263 Redman Road wanted some clarification about using recommendations from Germany. She understands that Germany already has many towers. She questioned why other sources weren't used for comparison when referring to carbon indexes on the construction of towers. She stated Hamlin's biggest industry is agriculture and suggested that as a good reason to recommend that the towers not be placed on agricultural land. Tom Jensen stated that NYS recommends that wind towers are best in agricultural settings with fewer houses in the area. The farmers can still farm around the towers. They only lose 1-5% of their land to the towers. Jerry Borkholder

stated that Germany was mentioned at the last meeting because they are the country with the longest history of towers and the distance for setbacks has become greater as time has gone on.

At this time Chairperson Linda DeRue closed the Open Forum

### **CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTARY**

Chairperson Linda DeRue stated that she has decided to play the DVD from Ed Evans prior to the next meeting if anyone was interested. It was agreed that the video would be shown at 6:00pm prior to the meeting. Jerry Borkholder asked why and Linda stated because she feels it should be viewed out of respect.

Linda also mentioned a letter that she has received from the Board of Ethics Committee regarding a conflict of interest. Several people have approached her regarding the Committee's bogus allegations and she understood that it was suppose to be confidential. A group in Hamlin has offered to pay for her legal services and she has been advised by her attorney not to make any further comments regarding the situation.

### **MINUTES**

Dave Lukas asked that on page 4 regarding the setback that it stated that the National Academy of Science recommends a ½ mile setback to minimize litigation. A motion was made by Andy Simpson, seconded by Stan Lyons to approve the minutes with that correction. Members polled Borkholder aye, Jensen aye, Lukas aye, Lyons aye, Morey aye, Simpson aye, DeRue aye. Minutes approved.

Dave Lukas wanted some information to be included in the minutes from previous meetings. It was suggested that he presents the information at the next meeting to have it recorded in those minutes since the previous minutes have already been approved.

### **REPORTS**

Jerry Borkholder mentioned he has been contacted by several people that are concerned that the Town Board has not been attending the Wind Tower meetings. He also has been contacted by Dave Cocca who was at the Wheelfest and he has some information for the committee. The clerk's email address was given as a contact for him. Bob Nelson from the Kendall Planning Board contacted him asking if anyone had any information regarding Town offsets on crossing borders. Tom Jensen stated that Hometown rule would be used. Each town can set their own standards. Jerry explained that he would like to work with bordering towns. Andy stated that towns should honor other town's setbacks along the border. Tom Jensen stated that the state would take over and regulate where the towers are to be placed. Article 10 is being negotiated right now. July 16 they will be voting on the wind tower bill. If it is passed then the towns won't have a say about the setbacks and the hometown rule will be thrown out. Chairperson Linda DeRue stated that she met with Denny Roach regarding the Article 10 and he will be at the next meeting to explain it to the committee. He was busy tonight and could not attend this meeting.

Jerry Borkholder showed a video on flicker.

Jerry handed out information on flicker. People getting sick from the blades of a helicopter creating the flicker effect or when riding in a car feeling sick when the flicker effect is created from the sun through the trees was discussed. The Pokemon incident when 700 children were hospitalized after watching an explosion on a cartoon was discussed. "Flicker illness" is caused by quick flashing light. People that are susceptible to this illness are affected more. They really don't know how wide spread the condition is. Based on the numbers, Hamlin could have one person effected or as many as 900 people effected. It depends on what numbers are being used. According to a study done in 2004 by the Department of Neurology Center children are the most prone to the flicker effect. 8% of 663 children had an abnormal response to IPS according to the study. Genetics and race also play a role. The color red was found to cause more seizures and parallel lines and stripes can cause seizures. Causes are TV, lightning, automobile riding, sunlight, helicopter blades, picket fences, discos, blinking lights, video games and computer monitors. Linda Morey asked Jerry if he has contacted the office that conducted the study on TVs, video games, etc. Jerry stated no he hasn't but she can if she wants to. Linda Morey asked if Jerry had any studies on the effects from wind towers. Jerry stated yes he does. Stan Lyons mentioned that strobe lights at dances could cause illness and headaches for children too without causing seizures. Jerry Borkholder stated that he believes there is a problem with the blades of the wind towers causing illness and other issues. Dave Lukas stated that when he visited Lowellville his daughter didn't feel good and when a co-worker became very sick it was surmised that shadow flicker was the cause. Stan Lyons agreed that the shadow effect from the trees driving down the road was irritating also. Linda DeRue stated that she was annoyed by the flicker effect caused from the snow on their visit to Wethersfield. Jerry Borkholder referenced a study done by Wind Engineers Incorporated for a wind turbine company. Some discussion took place on the study and the size of the towers used in the study. Jerry stated that they determined that 10 times the rotor distance is key for the setback regulation. Both sides of the study were given. Some discussion took place on rotor length and tower size regulations. Linda Morey agreed that flicker is significant but feels that the 2640' setback regulation is adequate. Andy Simpson stated that the difference is a TV or a video game can be turned off a wind tower can't. It is constant. He suggested adding to the regulation that the Town has the ability to turn off the tower if problems arise. Tom Jensen suggested having the towers turned off during the day when the homes in the area are affected by the flicker. Linda Morey questioned who from the town would be in charge of that. Tom Jensen stated they would have to train an emergency response team in the area and each tower would have to be equipped with its own emergency shut down system. Stan Lyons suggested that the company would have to have staff near the site. Tom Jensen stated that Fenner has a maintenance staff on site. He suggested putting that in the regulations and have them show a maintenance schedule and records every year when the Special Use Permit is renewed. Tom Jensen stated that a SEQR and Full Environmental Impact Study would have to be completed also. Jerry Borkholder stated that he was concerned that the results would be skewed or the town would waive the SEQR determination.

A motion was made by Dave Lukas, seconded by Stan Lyons regarding flicker that the setback be a minimum of 10 times the rotor diameter from a residence. Members polled Borkholder aye, Jensen aye, Lukas aye, Lyons aye, Morey aye, Simpson aye, DeRue aye. Motion carried.

Some discussion took place regarding a motion if a problem occurs with the towers.

The Committee agreed to carry the discussion over to the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Linda DeRue, seconded by Andy Simpson 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 July 17, 2007 at 7:00pm.**