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TOWN OF WARREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY JULY 8, 2013

Members Present: Craig Klofach, Mike Ketchel, Mike Bridgewater, Jim Sanford, Randy Graves, Lisa Miserendino and Dan Raddock.

Others Present: George Schenk, Dotty Kyle, Eric Brattstrom, Miron Malboeuf and Ruth Robbins.

Agenda: Call meeting to order, 7:30 pm.

1. Opportunity For Public Comment (fifteen minutes) 7:30 - 7:45 pm
2. Working Session.

Continued review of information Submitted to the Commission regarding Wind Energy - Final Report - Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission 04-30-13 & Separate Statement of Commissioner McCarren

3. Review & sign minutes from June 24th, 2013
4. Other & New business:

Mr. Klofach called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

The first item on the agenda was for any public comment or questions. There were three people in the audience who did not have any comments at this time and stated they were here mainly to just listen.

The Commission moved on to continue their discussion about wind energy with comments about a statement issued by Commissioner McCarren regarding the portion of the Final Report titled "Increase Emphasis on Planning" Sec. 4.3 which proposes the use of the PSD's Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) as the controlling document for siting for electric generation as well as creating an obligation for the municipalities to "proactively contribute to state goals". Ms. McCarren went on to state that instead of strengthening "the role of municipalities with the respect to land use decisions, this proposal diminishes their role". The CEP was issued in December of 2011 and a more recent report titled "Siting electric Generation in Vermont" by the Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission was issued in April of this year. The PC then talked about the percentage goals for renewable energy types such as the percent of wind power being utilized was at 2% in 2011 and the State is asking for it to be at 9% by 2016. They also noted that in the CEP document 500KW was considered "small" for a wind unit, whereas other sources had "small" as 100KW. One PC member asked the question "where do we absolutely not want to see a wind tower?". Do we need to have some designated iconic views that are protected from things like wind towers, cell towers, and the like.

Mr. Graves said he had read the book "Clean Break" [an e-book by Osha Davidson] suggested at the last meeting by the Energy Committee. He said that he found it very interesting in that the community in the book took the energy issue into their own hands and created their own community power sources instead of having the large power companies dictate what should be done. Mr. Graves also stressed that he felt the PC needed to look at the big picture and plan ahead, have a goal, of 50 years out with the knowledge that when the Town Plan is updated every five years it can reflect what has been done and what still needs to be done to reach that goal.

Mr. Schenk, who was in the audience but had to leave, asked to make a couple comments. He said that there was a map that shows where the wind resources are as well as the sensitive

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biological and aesthetic areas. He said that it is the natural resources of our state and the Mad River Valley that are the "goldmines" to the tourist industry on which we depend. He cautioned the PC to not throw the baby out with the bath water. Ms. Kyle added that in the long view what might be considered "inappropriate" now would be deemed vital later. She encouraged a move to decentralized power noting that big wind turbines were pretty much a moot issue due to cost but that small net metered turbines and solar applications should be promoted. Ms. Kyle also emphasized the importance of the Home Energy Challenge that promotes home energy conservation. Mr. Graves simply said that Germany did not want big wind turbines so instead they went small and more numerous. Mr. Raddock noted that in the UK the British government pays residents who have neighboring towers for putting up with the noise and for looking at them.

The PC returned to the task of needing some underlying standards regarding wind power and agreed that they wanted to have some regulations for small wind structures and elaborate on how they felt about the possibility of larger wind tower installations. As the discussion continued they once again thought it would be a good idea to get some more technical education and maybe see if they could get someone in to answer their questions. They also noted that definitions would be important and that it was their intention to hopefully get any modifications/additions to the wind energy portion of the Town Plan done by the end of the year.

In other business the PC members reviewed and signed the minutes from the previous meeting of June 24th. At 9:33 Mr. Klofach moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of an update on a real estate transaction. He also invited Mr. Malboeuf and Ms. Robbins to attend. Mr. Ketchel seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed. The PC came out of Executive Session at 9:38pm. Also in other business the PC was informed that the FEH proposal was going to the Select Board the following night. The Select Board will then have a warned hearing no sooner than 15 days and no later than 120 days from that meeting.

Mr. Klofach adjourned the meeting at 9:47 pm.

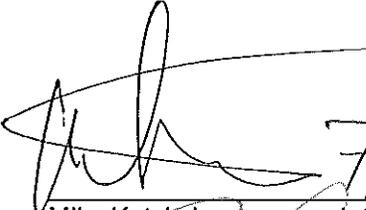
Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth V. Robbins
DRB/PC Assistant

Planning Commission

 7/22/13

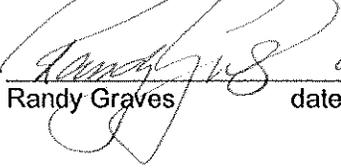
Dan Raddock date

 7/22/13

Mike Ketchel date

 7/22/13

Craig Klofach date

 07/22/13

Randy Graves date

Michael Bridgewater date

Jim Sanford date

 7/22/13

Lisa Miserepino date

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