

TOWN OF WARREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY JULY 22, 2013

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

Others Present: Eric Brattstrom, Dotty Kyle, 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 Wind & Alternative Energy.
 - a. Density and site spacing considerations
 - b. Warren energy use metrics to achieve the State goals.
3. Review & sign minutes from July 8th, 2013
4. Other & New business:

Mr. Klofach called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The first item on the agenda was time set aside for any public comment. Ms. Kyle and Mr. Brattstrom, both members of the Warren Energy Committee, were in attendance and offered the PC a couple articles they thought would be of interest to the members. Ms. Kyle told the Commission that if looking for a resource for information on wind power that Peter Edlund, a former Northern Power employee, would be a good person to talk to. She also noted that the Distributed Wind Energy Association [DWEA] was a very good resource for small wind projects.

The members then went on to their working session on wind energy with a focus on density and site spacing considerations. They first discussed the email between PC member Mr. Sanford and Mr. Stowell who works in the wind energy business. Mr. Sanford had specifically asked about the issue of density and how close a 100 kW wind machine could be placed to another of the same size. Mr. Stowell replied that *"In general wind turbine spacing is never closer than 3 rotor diameters [aka 3D] perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction and usually more like 4D or 5D. In the direction parallel to the prevailing wind direction, the spacing is usually 8D to 10D."* In discussing spacing and setbacks for towers one member suggested it be looked at as we do for well shields. Another asked the question what if neighbor #1 puts in his wind tower which then precludes neighbor #2 next door from being able to put one up. Should we consider establishing a minimum lot size and then encourage those who don't meet it to band together with neighbors to put in a tower queried another member. So, do we keep any proposed tower sited within the parcel so that it doesn't cross property lines or just create a standard that says it cannot be placed so that it might fall on a habitable dwelling? The members then tossed around the idea of how to encourage groups of residents to get together on the installation of a wind tower from which they would all benefit. Could there be some sort of Planned Energy Development [PED] that works like a Planned Unit Development [PUD] for housing? What would the incentive(s) be?

The discussion then moved on to the State energy goals and how the PC might be able to use them in creating goals for the town in the Town Plan. The state's CEP [Comprehensive Energy Plan] recommends that Vermont set a goal to obtain 90% of our total energy from renewable sources by the year 2050. They also say that wind power could meet up to 24% of the region's electricity needs by 2020 under certain assumptions for load growth, conservation and infrastructure forecasting improvements. The town of Warren currently uses 25 Mw as total

power consumption. To reach the State's proposed goal, 90% of 25Mw is 22.5Mw that would have to come from renewable energy sources by 2050. Of that they [the state] are suggesting that 20 to 24% of the renewables come from wind, or currently 55 of our energy use. The PC has talked about wanting to have a long range goal when it comes to energy, one that could be updated with the changes in technology and the will of the townspeople with our five year updates of the Town Plan. In an effort to move forward beyond just conversation and brainstorming, one member suggested we start putting down on paper 1) what we use, 2) goals for renewables, and 3) a goal for what we want from wind power. Another member put it a little differently: what we want to do, what we can do, and the details [nuts and bolts] to accomplish those. And yet another PC member pointed out that we needed to also look at what if any areas we definitely did not want to see wind power generation.

In other business the PC reviewed and signed the minutes of the previous meeting. Staff reported that they tentatively had a date for a representative from the Public Service Dept to attend our meeting on August 12th, yet to be confirmed. It was also noted that the proposed FEH Overlay District was with the Select Board who would be having a hearing in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth V. Robbins
DRB/PC Assistant

Planning Commission

Dan Raddock date

Mike Ketchel date

Craig Klofach date

Randy Graves date

Lisa Miserendino date