

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

OCTOBER 19, 2011
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: John Kieley, Randy Martin, Richard Whitcomb, Allan Pickman, Rose Lowry

Call to order by Pickman at 7:36 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Move by Kieley to accept the minutes of 10/5/11 as written, second by Whitcomb, and so voted.

Zoning ordinance for large wind energy systems: Kieley said he had checked several towns and cities across the state to see if they had “wind farm” zoning in place, and found none of them did. Kieley and Martin both referenced their review of the Antrim draft ordinance and thought it comprehensive and well written. Kieley had questions regarding certain technical issues, and noted some areas of the ordinance were specific only to Antrim. Martin stated that a Temple ordinance must be crafted to deal with not just the project currently under consideration, but also any future wind farm proposal. Lowry said she would like to bring a friend who is familiar with tower installation in to speak to the board. There was discussion about the immense amount of site work necessary for wind tower installation. It was acknowledged that in Temple a certain amount of ledge would be encountered. Pickman noted there is currently a lack of ANSI standards for the relatively new technology of wind towers. The board decided to hold a wind turbine forum on November 16th and discussed how to present information. They also noted recent newspaper publicity about the proposed Pioneer Green project. Lowry mentioned that one article indicated New Ipswich is in the process of making changes to their existing ordinance. Kieley offered to rework the language of the Antrim ordinance to frame a draft ordinance for Temple, and then forward it to Martin for his input. Kieley also suggested holding an extra meeting before the forum, but Pickman stated the forum is not an actual public hearing on the ordinance, just information sharing and listening to people’s comments. The board then discussed the visibility of the existing meteorological tower. Pickman stated he had checked different areas in town and made note of any impact on views; he offered to return and document with photos. They then discussed the gathering of data from the met tower, and Lowry suggested establishing a connection with the New Ipswich land board to keep abreast of any changes before information appears in the local newspaper. There was concern that if Temple should turn down the current proposal for wind towers on Kidder Mountain, residents would still be impacted but without gaining any tax benefits. Lowry stated any ordinance would need to protect residents.

Lempster field trip: Ayvazian will be contacted to see if there has been any further conversation with the land owner in Lempster to help establish when a visit by the board might be scheduled.

Village District Survey results: Lowry presented preliminary data from survey respondents. She noted an overall message of “don’t make any changes”, and said there were many interesting written comments. She said the point of the survey was to make people think, and the board discussed the upcoming presentation on November 2nd and how to promote attendance.

Move to adjourn by Kieley, second by Martin, and so voted at 8:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry