

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

JANUARY 19, 2012
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Allan Pickman, John Kieley, Rose Lowry, and Mary Beth Ayvazian (by telephone)

Call to order by Pickman at 7:23 p.m.

Large Wind Energy System (LWES) ordinance: The board worked to finalize the draft of the LWES ordinance. Among the revisions were changes that had been suggested by town counsel. The list of ordinance definitions was also reviewed and updated. The content of Section C. "System Requirements" and Section D. "Application Procedures" were compared for consistency. There was discussion about the requirements in Section H. "Administration and Associated Costs", including the condition that a \$25,000 bond must be held in escrow to help defray any town costs associated with the project. After noting pros and cons, it was decided to delete Section H. entirely. Other topics that were brought up and briefly reviewed included referencing financial conditions in both sections C and D, making sure everything reads in chronological order, defining setback size, and timing of determination of technical aspects of towers and engineering specifications. Also considered was the possibility of a project being proposed, going through approval process, and then having the acquired permits transferred to a different developer. It was noted that Pioneer Green is currently involved in another large scale project in Maryland. This led to a discussion of financial stability of companies who propose these types of projects, and whether the town's Board of Selectmen have authority to review a company's credit and resources. Kieley wondered if the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) or Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) could get involved with this type of sale, where the original contractor wants to sell the project 10 years down the road. Pickman said no matter who is involved there is no guarantee against bankruptcy. Honey Hastings suggested putting language in the ordinance to require notice to the town if development rights are being passed on, as well as advising of any change in name or contact information during the life of the project. Kieley noted the ordinance might require changes through the years due to evolving technology. The topic of raptor migration was brought up, including the significance of the 22 mile long "leading line" through the Wapack ridges. Kieley said further documentation can be presented to project applicants to explain the migration route significance and to "put a stake in the ground relative to preserving this resource". Board members then gave some thought to the need to create a new application form and determine a fee schedule for this type of project.

At the conclusion of their work, Kieley made a motion to accept the draft ordinance #10 as amended, to be posted for the second public hearing. This was seconded by Pickman, and so voted in the unanimous affirmative, by three members present and Ayvazian voting via telephone. A copy of the ordinance will be posted on the town website, and a printed copy made available at the town offices.

Move to adjourn by Kieley, second by Pickman, and so voted unanimously at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry