

PRESENT: Martha Fischer, Marcus Gingerich, Jude Lemke, Mimi Mehaffey, Councilperson Michael Miles, Julie Schroeder, Rob Tesori. Guest Henry Hansteen, Town Councilperson

ABSENT: Councilperson Mike Carpenter

Michael Miles called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and lead the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Old Business

There was discussion on the minutes of September 13.

Corrections:

Martha Fischer was not present at the meeting.

Neighboring Landowner is a non-participating landowner.

Wetlands should not be disturbed.

Note under Section 17 a reference to Section 18 is given.

The minutes were not approved as not all members had read through minutes for corrections and additions.

Enfield Wind Energy Law

Setbacks were discussed. Germany and Denmark use 10 times the height of the wind turbine.

Jude Lemke reported she talked to her “noise expert” regarding the monitoring process for the dBA and lower frequency. A recommendation was suggested that a significant setback be added which would alleviate a lot of the “noise” concerns. It was reported that Germany AMA wants a moratorium for research regarding setbacks and noise levels.

NASA study for wind turbines stated that if the setbacks are beyond 1 kilometer people should not be affected in regard to “noise”.

There was discussion on how Jonathan Rogers, Engineer from Georgia Tech. calculated the dynamics of blade and ice throw for the wind turbines.

The committee decided they need a reason for the recommended setback numbers. The number should be based on a scientific study. The recommendation should also be practical. For example 5 miles would be too large a perimeter around the wind turbine for the developer.

It was stated that Germany, Denmark, and Poland are making decisions to stop or slow down wind turbine development . There was discussion on the energy used in producing the turbines to producing the energy and using the energy from the turbines. Perhaps a better answer than using wind turbines is to reduce your energy use. A committee for reducing energy use is needed in the town.

It was recommended that a starting point for setbacks from the property line could be 2,000 feet or 4 times the height of the wind turbines. This setback is based on the best evidence that the community has researched.

Should the law be updated bi-annually? This type of update could be difficult and laborious. It was suggested that if and when a developer comes in the town a moratorium could be put in place while the law is being re-evaluated.

There was discussion on certain distant recommendations for different features – utilities lines, wetlands, etc. NYSEG restrictions operate the distance in regard of the utility lines.

There was general discussion on the recommended changes in the Enfield Law for Section 2: Complaints, Violations, and Enforcement. Highlights were: Good Utility Practice, 90 days in compliance, code enforcement office needed additional training, serious violation respond.

How would a noise violation be verified? Could a permanent sound monitoring station be set up to measure noise? Full spectrum noise measurement is a challenge. The homeowner has to give proof of the noise problem to the code enforcement officer. It is expensive to hire a “noise” specialist. Could a small escrow account setup to be used for solving complaints? Do the wind turbines make more noise as they get older?

Jude Lemke will add the suggested changes to the draft Enfield wind energy facilities law.

Public Comments

- The question was asked what happens regarding the settlement of the Black Oak Wind farm bill owed the town.
- “Button Up” Enfield is good with lots to learn.
- The Town Board needs to the following “due process” in regard to the wind farm.

Next Meeting October 11, 7 pm:

Committee members were asked to research and references are needed:

- Why there is a certain number of feet recommended for setbacks regarding property and or residence and how is effects noise.
- Property agreements and dispute resolutions
- Property values.

Michael Miles adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Thompson, Recording Secretary