

Renewable Energy Advisory Committee

August 23, 2017 Meeting

In Attendance: Mike Carpenter, Marcus Gingerich, Art Godin, Jude Lemke, Mimi Mehaffey, Walt Smithers, Dan Walker

Mike suggested that the agenda for this meeting consist of reviewing the work done by the wind power subgroup (Mimi, Marcus and Jude) since our last meeting and defining next steps, and then discussing how to proceed with our study of the issues related to industrial solar PV projects.

The wind power subgroup distributed an outline of a possible wind law, combining features contained in the ordinances approved by the NYS towns of Hammond and Somerset. The draft law would begin by presenting the findings supporting the committee's recommendations. The findings section would draw from Enfield's Comprehensive Plan, the Wind Energy Advisory Committee Report of 4/12/16 and the findings of other Towns which have studied the impacts of industrial wind projects on their communities.

Dan Walker agreed to send the committee the PowerPoint slides on wind power gleaned from a NYS workshop he attended. Walt reminded us that local wind and solar laws will necessarily vary depending on each Town's political and geographic features. We agreed to read the aforementioned Wind Energy Advisory Committee Report, the Town of Bethany study and the Somerset and Hammond ordinances if possible.

In keeping with the terminology used in the materials we are studying, references to wind power projects will hereafter be referred to as Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS). We began going through the process of how an application would be filed and approved. Dan advised that we not worry at this stage about overlaps between the WECS application process and the SEQRA process.

We discussed the possibility of requiring both a construction permit and an operational license for WECS. Requiring the periodic renewal of the WECS operational license would give the Town leverage to enforce minimal safety requirements based on annual safety reports conducted by expert consultants. We discussed the need for the Town to have the authority to reasonably waive some provisions of the law.

We talked about the various studies that would be required under the WECS application process to confirm its adherence to established WECS standards, and some of the issues involved in defining and confirming adherence to these standards. The wind power sub group will work on Article I of the ordinance outline, "Findings and Determinations".

We touched on the plausibility of small-scale WECS being promoted as alternatives to industrial scale systems.

Turning our discussion to solar projects, Walt shared with us the [Zoning for Solar Energy Resource Guide](#) developed by NYSERDA, and agreed to send the committee a .pdf of the document. We agreed to read through this guide before our next meeting. We also agreed to read the Solar Law Draft prepared some time ago by members of the Planning Board including Dan Walker, and to read through Enfield's Site Plan Review process.

The solar power sub group (Walt and Art) will connect to coordinate their efforts before the next committee meeting.

Our next meetings will be held at the Community Building on Thurs 9/14 and Wed 9/27/17, both at 7-9 PM.

-Minutes submitted by Art Godin.