

## **Renewable Energy Advisory Committee**

### **July 26, 2017 Meeting**

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

Not Present: Jude Lemke

At this first meeting of our newly-appointed committee, Mike asked us to state in turn why we had volunteered to join this group, what issues we were most concerned about and what outcomes we were hoping for. Most members of the committee have been studying for some time the benefits and problems related to big wind and solar installations. A wide range of issues were touched upon.

There emerged some agreement that industrial wind and solar projects now need to be evaluated not solely on the basis of their importance to averting climate change—saving the earth—but also as big, corporate, money-making projects requiring thorough analysis of the costs and benefits to Enfield and its residents. Enfield needs to move carefully to protect its substantial land and water resources.

Dan Walker suggested that laws regulating solar and wind projects should protect the environment and the rights of landowners, but also allow some level of development if all required protections are provided. Dan also urged us to be aware of how new laws interfaced with existing laws, and suggested that the Comprehensive Plan should include a goal to consolidate Enfield's regulations into a single Town Code.

Mike thought we should soon outline a process and a timeline for what we need to accomplish.

Two small teams were assigned the task of researching and drawing from ordinances developed by other towns and municipalities to regulate Wind Energy Systems (Marcus, Mimi & Jude) and Solar Energy Systems (Walt and Art). There was some sharing of useful websites and on-line articles.

Our next committee meetings were set for Thursday, 8/10 and Wed 8/23, both 6:30-8:30 at the Community Building. *Note- The time of our 8/23 meeting was later changed to 7-9PM.*

-Minutes submitted by Art Godin.