

WINDMILL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES: MARCH 21, 2024

MEMBERS: CYNTHIA BEAUVAIS (Secretary), KATHY HOWELL, CARRIE PEABODY (Chair)

ALTERNATES: DIANE SMITH

ABSENT MEMBERS: PAUL IOSSA, AL GRIGNON

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS: ROBERT KELLY

MINUTES:

1. MEETING START 5:05 PM.
2. FEBRUARY 27, 2024 MINUTES APPROVED BY TEAM ON EMAIL AND POSTED ON TOWN WEBSITE ON MARCH 19, 2024.
3. JONESPORT WIND MORATORIUM IS NOT NOTED AS SPECIFIC TO COMMERCIAL WINDMILLS. DISCUSSED EXPANSION OF ORDINANCE FOR RESIDENTIAL WIND STANDARDS AND BE ALL-INCLUSIVE. SUGGEST RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS BE CONSIDERED BY PLANNING BOARD FOR INCORPORATION INTO SOLAR ORDINANCE AS WELL. RAISE ISSUE WITH PLANNING BOARD.
4. ROUNDTABLE FEEDBACK ON ORDINANCES FROM COLUMBIA, MACHIASPORT, BOTH APPLYING MAINE MODEL TEMPLATE FOR WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (WEFs). CHECK WITH COLUMBIA FOR ORDINANCE FINAL APPROVAL, OBTAIN COMPLETE VERSION WITH ALL APPENDICES.
5. DISCUSS PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 3. NOT A TRUE PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT A VOTE BUT AN INFORMATIONAL HEARING TO DETERMINE THE DIRECTION FOR THE WIND ORDINANCE BASED UPON INPUT /COMMENTARY FROM THE PUBLIC. APEX DOWNEAST WIND DEVELOPMENT MGR ROB GEE WILL BRING 1 SELECTMAN/1 PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FROM COLUMBIA TO DISCUSS HANDLING OF THE APEX ROJECT. NOTICES HAVE BEEN POSTED AT THE TOWN OFFICE, WEBSITE TICKER TAPE, AND AT 6 PROMINENT LOCATIONS IN TOWN. HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN OFFICE, APRIL 3 FROM 5-7PM. COMMENTS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE TOWN OFFICE OR VIA EMAIL TO SELECTMEN@TOWNOFJONESPORT.COM BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND MAY 1, 2024.
6. WETLANDS IN VICINITY OF APEX PROJECT WILL HAVE NO MEANS OF EGRESS FROM THE JONESPORT SIDE. CONCERNS ABOUT TAX REVENUE LOSS TO AREA ZONED AS NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION ARE OF CONCERN. WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO KNOW THE PROJECT BEFORE REZONING OCCURRED BUT PERMIT WAS APPROVED BY DEP BEFORE TOWN KNEW. SHOULD BE A BETTER PROCESS IN PLACE FOR NOTIFYING MUNICIPALITIES OF UPCOMING PROJECTS BEFORE LAND GETS REZONED AND TOWN TAX BASE IS LOST.
7. DIANE INVESTIGATED WIND PERMIT(S) ISSUED OVER A DECADE AGO. PROJECTS NEVER MATERIALIZED DUE TO FUNDING, ETC. PERMITS WERE OLD. PLANNING BOARD DEEMED PERMITS AS LAPSED.

8. DIANE RECOMMENDED HAVING A SEPARATE ADDENDUM APPLICATION EACH FOR COMMERCIAL SOLAR AND FOR COMMERCIAL WINDMILLS. THE TEAM AGREED AN APPLICATION ADDENDUM FOR WIND ENSURES ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED AND PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS ADDITIONAL FEES. THE FOCUS IS TO FIRST GENERATE A DRAFT WIND ORDINANCE AND THEN CONSIDER THE WIND PERMIT APPLICATION ADDENDUM.
9. CARRIE WORKING TO HAVE A BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SPEAKER COME TALK ABOUT HOW THE WETLANDS WILL BE MANAGED THAT ARE IN THE VICINITY OF WINDMILLS. MARK STEBBINS EXPECTS TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM BANGOR COME SPEAK PUBLICALLY TO THE TOWN IN APRIL. AWAITING CONFIRMATION ON SPEAKER/DATE.
10. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6PM.
11. THE NEXT WIND COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 28, 2024 @ 5PM AT THE TOWN OFFICE.

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