

Green Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 1-7-10

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Mark Beaton who will chair the meeting tonight

Present at meeting: GEC Members: Mark Beaton, Mike O'Meara, Gene Wyatt, Pine duBois, Tony Nessaralla; also, Stephen Wehl (W/S); Tom Bott, Town Planner and liaison to W/S; Jill Myers, Town Administrator

Appointment:

7 pm: Public Outreach to stake holders. W/S Update on Turbine Location Potential Turbines availability for site-specific location.

In attendance: Sewer Commission Peter Cobb, Elaine Fiore, Mary Ann Richards, Thomas Taylor; STP Superintendent Paul Basler; Selectmen: Dick Arruda, Dennis Randall, Sandy MacFarlane; also Ron Gleason, Jeanette Gleason, Dan Sheehan, **others??**

Weston & Sampson Stephen Wehl- begins discussion that W/S is working to pre-qualify turbines based on constraints –developed plans being discussed tonight

- Maps displayed and available on town website
- 100 ft setback fr property boundaries
- Did not treat transfer station and sewer plant as public way
- 600 foot buffer from commercial and residential properties
- slip ramp based on proposed condition

Mark Beaton explains the northernmost available area shown on map has a vernal pool and is too low, being 80 ft below grade of transfer station.

Steve W. explains the ability and steps that can allow development on the capped landfill --the landfill is similar to the Hull 2 project. Probably would add \$150K to the project for foundation prep for the turbine. Utility lines would probably be over the liner but under the cap

From perspective of manufacturers this is a “Small behind the meter” application—single large turbine. In the past, this was not attractive. Now since financial crisis, the manufacturers have interest; also there is new emergence of companies in Canada, India, and elsewhere.

W&S sent out constraint analysis about a month ago to prospective turbine providers, and is beginning to get responses—3 out of ten sent so far—Vestas is likely interested, they want specifics of procurement.

Vestas does their own O & M for 20 years.

Mark Beaton discusses practicality of choosing the site—permit the site plan for Planning Board and Zoning Board, as well as know what manufacturers are appropriate

If the landfill, then DEP permitting would also be needed for construction on and modification of the cap. Other manufacturers, such as GE will not allow their machine in

a densely developed area. Other manufacturers have similar constraints that would prevent them from bidding on the project.

12-month construction project in Massachusetts—but can take 24 months depending on availability of the turbine. Use of the landfill will also impact construction schedule.

Paul Basler raises interconnection requirement. Town has contract with Glynn electric to work out the interconnection scheme—but basically turbine will need a transformer and a scadia box to be able to read and monitor the output.

Dennis Randall queries the management of the turbine. (Beaton) In Falmouth, the manufacturer manages the turbine. Not sure how Hull is managed, but Kingston will not reinvent the wheel, and will do something similar.

Steve Wehl: It is reasonable that we will have estimates for town meeting if we put a \$5 million request to town meeting we should be adequately financed.

Elaine Fiore asks for financials.

W&S is scoped to provide both a public and private financials for the project

Steve Wehl restates KEMA model and financials are fairly accurate. (These were presented in the previous reports)

Private side: town gets entitlements to entice private investor—including Treasury grant of 30%. Plymouth has awarded a project to CCI and Cohasset has just awarded a private contract.

Gene questions whether we can take advantage of the three proposed sites and maybe modify the size but take advantage of the site. Now, MTC will only give one award to the project—not three. However, it is possible to put up multiple turbines, although the smaller turbines are not as efficient.

Rule of thumb on wind farm—ten rotor diameters (2 to 3 in actuality) in order to avoid wind loss (wake) between machines.

Utilities are obligated to 1% renewable energy purchases. Once they achieve that they will be giving only wholesale rate-not distribution rate- (which is much higher).

Tom Bott queries potential for putting solar array on same site. Steve Wehl states no reason not to—the turbine will not cast shadow to disrupt solar, and state is incentivizing use of landfills for such an effort.

Pine moves, Tony seconds to focus on landfill site. Direct Steve and W/S to Planning Board, Zoning Board and DEP permitting. Voted Unanimously

Time frame—not unreasonable to expect 30-45 days for special permit and do geo-tech concurrently,

Major modification for the landfill cover is required for DEP

Planning board, a 2 week advance of ZBA permit request to be most efficient

Business:

Moved by Mike, second by Tony, to approve minutes of 12/03/09 as written. Unanimous.
Tony moved and Mike, second to pay WE Print Today \$32 for printing posters.
Unanimous

We are invited to Green Communities consultant at town hall 1PM Tuesday, at Selectmen's office.

Tony Motions, Mike second to hold space on town meeting warrant, which closes Friday the 8th. And to further discuss the following five initiatives.

Green Community Initiatives

- 1) Stretch Code
- 2) 43 D Expedited Permitting
- 3) Solar PV Zoning Article – As of Right
- 4) Wind Turbine Zoning Article – As of Right
- 5) Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policies

Unanimous

Tony moves that we save spot on town meeting warrant to fund the wind turbine project. Further discussion at a later time, Mark second. Unanimous

08 – 09 fuel Audit results – Full Year, 09/09 Fuel Audit results for ½ year, provided we did a lousy job last year—we will discuss more next meeting

Pine Moves, Mike seconds to pay annual dues for ICLEI that expired December 31, 2009. Unanimous

Announcements:

Jim Moran will step down as chairman but will remain on G.E.C. work responsibilities in D.C.

Reorganization:

Mark Beaton offers to chair in order to move the wind project along. Tony moves Mark as Chair, Mike seconds, Mike asks for other nominations, discussions there are none. Question called Unanimous, Mark Beaton will proceed as chair.

Next meeting January 21st, 6PM

New Business

- Website content & Management Policies endorsed by BOS

- Adjourn Meeting 8:50PM