

MINUTES
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Committee members present: Ron DiPippo (Chair), Nathalie Dias, Raymond Medeiros, Arthur Larrivee, Kevern Joyce, Roger Race.

Committee members absent: Ed Iacaponi, Paul Lopes, Saul Raposo, Joseph Sousa.

Others: Robert Barboza, Ken & Joan Castino, Roseanne O'Connell, Bridget Earle, David Hickox, David Brooks, Tom Kirby, Jeanne Nesto, Jess Rice, Kevin Roode, Sam Taylor, Jordan Bonnell, Cameron Sweet, Mary Beth Kula, Sean Harris, and Devin Kosowan and.

Chairman DiPippo called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

1. Approval of Minutes.

A motion was made and seconded; it was voted unanimously to accept and approve the Alternative Energy Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2009.

2. Announcements

The Chairman announced that no word has been received on the town's application to the IRS for authorization to issue \$2 million of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) to partially finance the proposed wind turbine project. It is expected that we will hear about it in early October.

The next meeting of the AEC will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Town Hall, Room 315.

3. Review of TRG and Select Board meetings

On September 8, 2009, the Technical Research Group (TRG) voted unanimously to recommend that the Special Permit Granting Authority or SPGA (in Dartmouth this is the Select Board) approve the Special Permit (SP) application submitted by the AEC on behalf of the town. The TRG is composed of the following persons: Ed Iacaponi (Ex-Officio), David Hickox (Town Engineer), Arthur Larrivee (Planning Board representative), Ron DiPippo (AEC representative), Roger Tougas (Zoning Board of Appeals representative), and Nathalie Dias (At-Large member, appointed by the Select Board).

On September 28, 2009, Select Board postponed a decision on the SP application at the request of the AEC, pending new site plans for both the north and south turbines.

4. Consideration of new site plan for 100-m towers.

Atlantic Design Engineers (ADE) developed new placements for the turbines because of wetlands that were recently discovered in the vicinity of both turbines. Then new plans were received from ADE today. Briefly, the north turbine has been slightly re-located about 150 feet to the east of its original position, and the south turbine has been re-located about 600 feet to the northwest. See **Figure 1**.

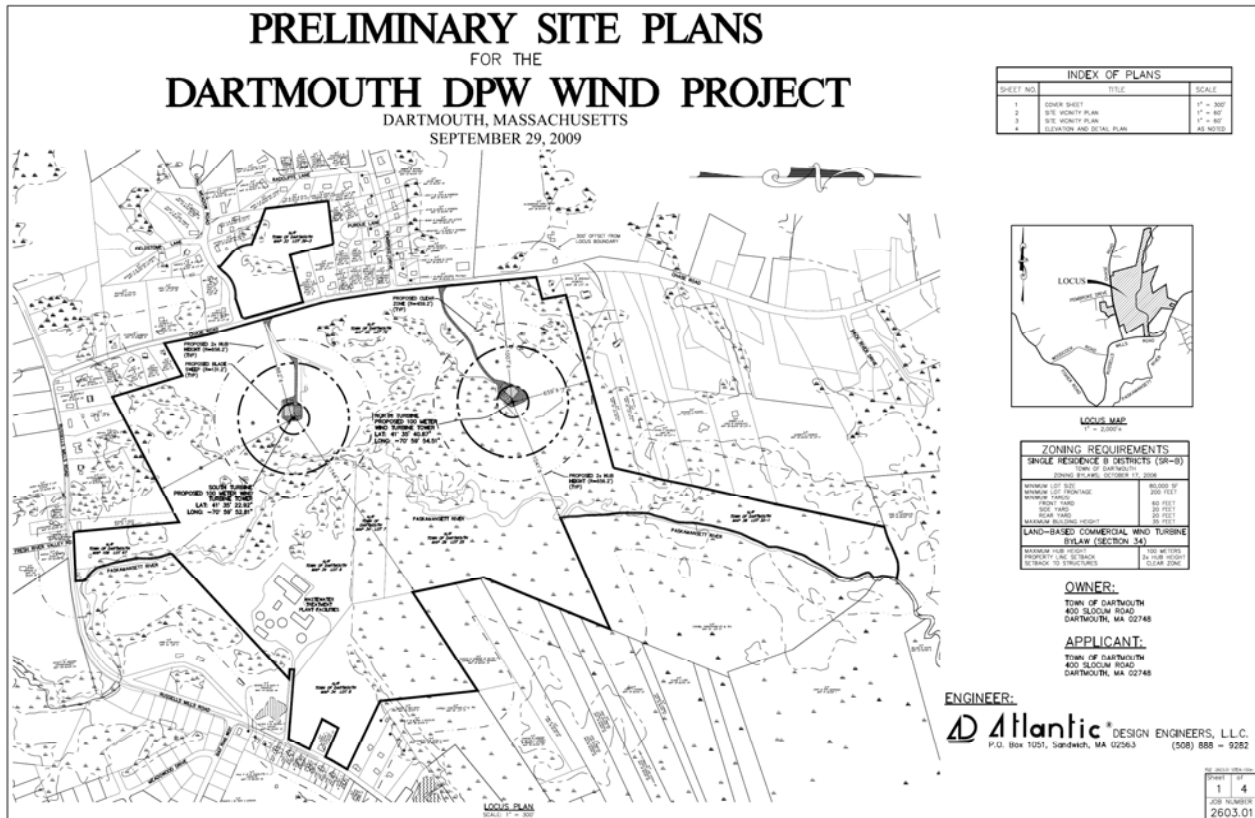


Figure 1. New locations for north and south turbines on DPW property at 687 Chase Road.

Dave Hickox reported that he met this afternoon with Rich Tabacznski (ADE), Tim Barber and Mike O'Reilly to discuss the new plans. The new location for the north turbine has been settled, but the route of the access road from Chase Road to the site is still uncertain. Either the existing dirt road will be upgraded or a new road will be cut into the site somewhat north of the existing road. The alternative that causes the least disturbance will be chosen. See **Figure 2**. The new location of the south turbine may be shifted somewhat to the east depending on a further survey of wetlands in the area. See **Figure 3**.

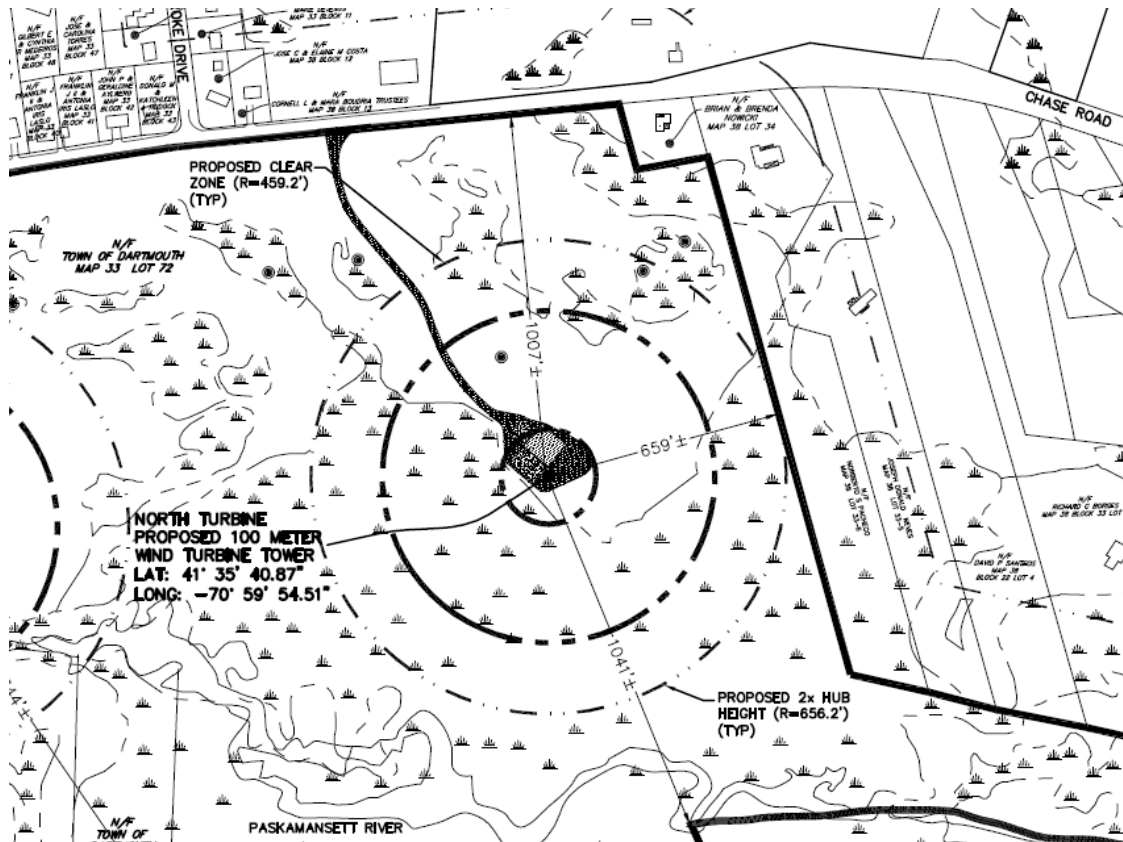


Figure 2. New location of North Turbine in detail.

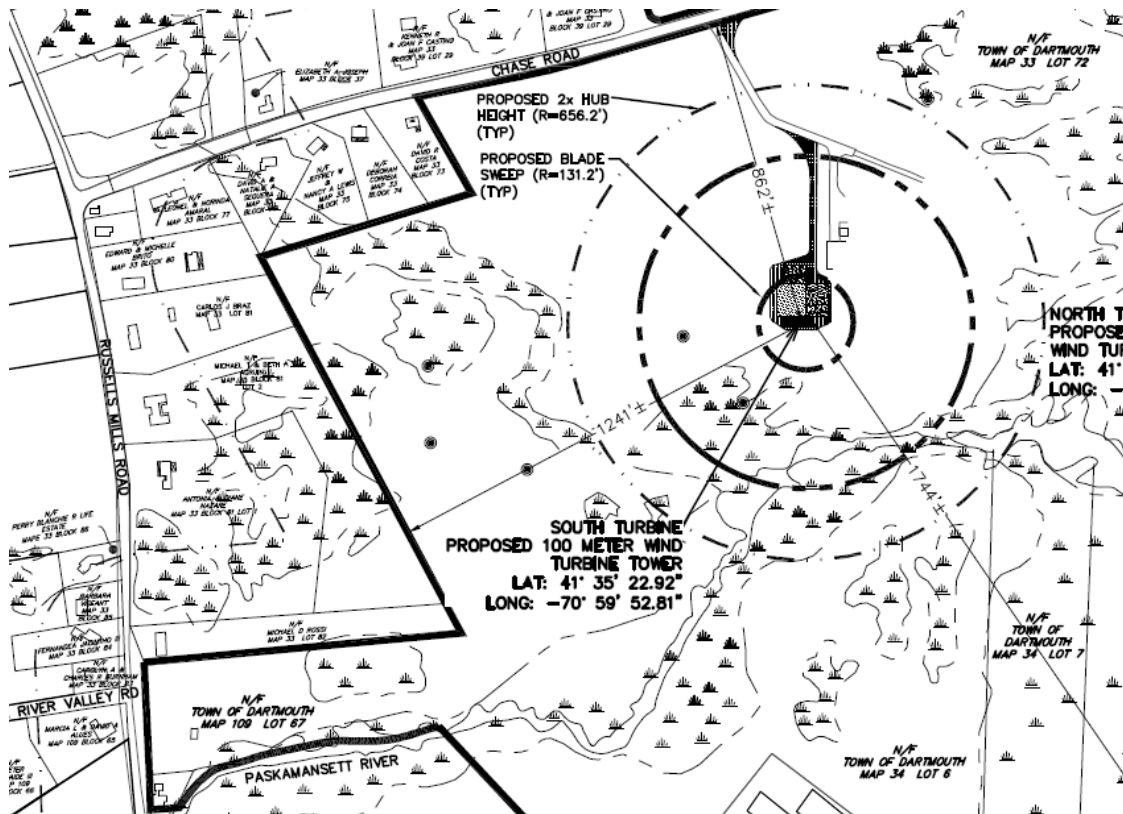


Figure 3. New location of South Turbine in detail.

Chairman DiPippo related what the consequences would be of the new locations relative to the previous locations.

1. Wetlands would be skirted so as not to encroach upon them.
2. The access road to the south turbine would be significantly shorter, thereby reducing the costs for site preparation; if the existing access road to the north site can be used it would also be a less expensive proposition than constructing a new road.
3. In their new configuration the turbines will not interfere with each other wind-wise.
4. There are relatively small changes in distances to nearest neighbors.
5. Given the very low noise impact determined for the original locations, it is expected that the new configuration will not change the conclusion that the incremental sound from the turbines will still be below the threshold for hearing detection.
6. Shadow-flicker pattern will be affected in detail but it is expected that roughly the same general pattern will be seen as in the previous case.

Referring to an article in the New Bedford Standard-Times reporting on the Select Board meeting in which David Costa and Jeanne Nesto were quoted as saying that their house was 880 feet from the south turbine, the chairman stated that was incorrect and that the true distance was 1177 feet in the original case. The new, tentative position would reduce that by about 17 feet.

5. Other business

Consideration of proposed comment to DPU regarding Net Metering.

Chairman DiPippo offered a draft of a statement to be sent to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) regarding net metering. It is essentially a copy of a letter that was sent to the DPU from the town of Milton but specialized to Dartmouth's situation. This is an attempt to get the DPU to offer clarity regarding the monetary value of the excess generation that would be sold back to the distribution company, NSTAR in Dartmouth's case. The committee suggested that we cite other states that have adopted net metering regarding their approach to a feed-in tariff. Kevern Joyce will look into this and advise the chairman.

A motion was made and seconded; it was voted unanimously to send a revised letter to the DPU with the names of all members of the AEC under the signature of the chairman.

6. Public comments and questions

Ms. Jeanne Nesto spoke about how in her door-to-door canvassing of the neighborhoods in the vicinity of the wind turbines she found so few people realized that the turbines were in an advanced state of planning. She went on to relate how she warned them about the perceived dangers from the turbines. She mentioned noise, flicker, flashing lights, etc. and loss of property values. The chairman disputed that noise, flicker or any other environmental effect would be as bad as Ms. Nesto stated. She agreed that her main concern was loss of property value because they would be so tall that no one would want to live near them. David Brooks (ADE) offered some anecdotes drawn from Hull and other places with wind turbines that were intended to allay Ms. Nesto's fears. Namely, that in many cases, people who were dead against the turbines before they were built changed their minds once they were built and they did not bring the doom and destruction that had been anticipated. He pointed out that property values were actually increased, not lowered.

Jessica Rice, a UMD student, asked the chairman what the timetable was for the project and if successful, was the town planning to build more turbines. Chairman DiPippo answered that the plan had been to obtain the SP from the SB on September 28, and to seek authorization to proceed to secure financing from Town Meeting on October 20. However, owing to the unexpected delay caused by the newly-discovered wetlands, both dates are now unrealistic. If everything else goes smoothly from now on, it may still be possible to begin construction in the summer of 2010 and have the turbines in operation by next winter. Finally, given the very tight constraints placed on a wind turbine project by the Commercial Wind Turbine Bylaw, it is unlikely that very more, if any, new turbines will be built.

Roseanne O'Connell suggested that the town organize a forum to discuss the project. It might be held in the Southworth Library and called "Dartmouth Wind Turbines: Progress and Process". The AEC concurred that this would be a valuable thing to do and that the SB should be the driving force to conduct it.

6. Adjournment

After a motion was made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn the Alternative Energy Committee meeting. With no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the regular meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Attest:



Ronald DiPippo, Chairman