

Fairhaven Board of Selectmen June 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Charles Murphy, Vice Chairman Robert Espindola, Clerk Geoffrey Haworth, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, Administrative Assistant Anne Kakley.

Chairman Charles Murphy called the meeting to order in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was televised by Cable Access.

MINUTES

- Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2013 meeting, open session. Mr. Haworth seconded. Motion passed. (3-0).
- Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2013 meeting, executive session. Mr. Haworth seconded. Motion passed. (3-0).
- Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 meeting, open session. Mr. Haworth seconded. Motion passed. (3-0).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

In his report, Mr. Osuch updated the Selectmen on the following meetings:

- Tuesday, June 4
 - 7:00 a.m. Wood School Building Committee at Town Hall
 - 10:00 a.m. Wood School Job Meeting
 - 1:00 p.m. As Built Meeting Wood School
 - 6:00 p.m. Selectmen meeting with Conservation Commission
- Wednesday, June 5
 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Solar Challenge at the Senior Center
- Thursday, June 6
 - 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Forum at City Hall, Room 314
 - 10:00 a.m. FEMA/MEMA Blizzard Meeting
 - 6:00 p.m. Assistant Assessor Interviews

• Monday, June 10 –

- 12:00 p.m. Combined meeting BOS and BOH
- Tuesday, June 11
 - 10:00 a.m. Wood School Job Meeting

- 3:30 p.m. Mattapoisett River Valley Advisory
- 4:30 p.m. Mattapoisett River Valley Water District
- Wednesday, June 12
 - 12:00 p.m. Manager's Meeting in Marion
- Thursday, June 13
 - 11:00 a.m. Boston State House
- Monday, June 17
 - 6:30 p.m. Board of Selectmen Hurricane meeting at West Island

CHANGE ORDER #9

The Board reviewed and approved Change Order #9 for the New Wood School project in the amount of \$4,020.72. Mr. Espindola motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

REQUISITION #12

The Board reviewed and approved Requisition #12 for the New Wood School project in the amount of \$1,106,866.00. Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the requisition. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). As the Board signed the requisition, Mr. Osuch updated the public to the school's progress. He said that construction of the parking lot was underway, with granite and concrete curbing in the process of installation. Loam is being screened. The retention pond will be seeded and plants and shrubbery will follow. Most of the classroom wing is complete and the project is on schedule. Substantial completion and a punch list is scheduled for August.

NSTAR RIGHT-OF-WAY CUTTING

Mr. Osuch told the Board that the Selectmen's Office received a formal letter from the Harbormist Association about clear-cutting anticipated from NSTAR along their 100-ft wide right-of-way through Fairhaven. NSTAR confirms that they will be doing this clear-cutting throughout communities every three years to improve access to power lines in the event of an outage, and to prevent outages. The Board discussed the clear-cutting and Mr. Haworth noted that a lot of the land in question is wetlands.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PROTOCOL

Mr. Osuch said that the Board would have to enter Executive Session at the conclusion of Open Session to discuss a Building Commissioner issue with Scramblers restaurant and threatened litigation from resident Justin Downey, related to a vehicle purchased from a BPW auction.

Mr. Haworth and Mr. Espindola questioned entering Executive Session for the issue related to Scramblers. Mr. Osuch said that it would be the will of the Board to not enter Executive Session related to the issue of Scramblers and building inspections. Mr. Murphy said that the matter would be Open Session "at this point".

STEPHENSON AND BROOK AUTHORIZATION

The Board reviewed a request from Stephenson and Brook for the approval of an authorization form and letter, giving Stephenson and Brook permission to manage the Town's worker's compensation claims for FY14. Mr. Espindola motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the document. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Board reviewed their calendar for the upcoming summer months and concluded to meet on the following dates:

Monday, July 1 Monday, July 15 Thursday, July 25 Thursday, August 8 Monday, August 26 Monday, September 9 Monday, September 23 Monday, October 7 Monday, October 7 Monday, October 21 Monday, November 4 Monday, November 18 Monday, December 2 Monday, December 30

NSTAR GAS PERMITS

The Board approved an NSTAR gas permit application for Green Street between Huttleston Ave and Larch Ave. This application was previously approved by the BPW. Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the application. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS

The Chairman acknowledged the receipt of \$162.84 for the Animal Shelter Gift Account and thanked those who donated.

TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM APPLICATION

The Board reviewed an application from the Millicent Library Children's librarian, Jane Murphy, to use the Town Hall Auditorium on June 27 from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a children's show, and on August 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a rain back-up option to the Teddy Bear Parade. The Board was supportive to the annual request. Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the use of the

Town Hall Auditorium for the aforementioned dates and times. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

CDBG 2011 GRANT EXTENSION

The Board reviewed a request from Town Planner/CDBG Administrator Bill Roth to sign a grant extension for the CDBG 2011 grant. There was no discussion. Mr. Espindola motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the extension. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

NB WHALING MUSEUM CANNON AGREEMENT

The Board reviewed a biannual agreement with the New Bedford Whaling Museum to borrow two cannon for Fort Phoenix. As a part of the agreement, the Museum requested proof of insurance. The Board voted to approve renewing the two-year agreement. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

STEVE AMBROSE – WIND TURBINES AND SOUND

At 6:30 p.m., the Board met with Stephen Ambrose, an INCE Board Certified acoustical specialist. Mr. Ambrose gave a 20-minute presentation on his findings related to wind turbines and sound. See Attachment A for the presentation. Following the presentation, Mr. Ambrose entertained questions from the Board. Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Ambrose about DEP methods used in collecting sound samples as a part of its report. Mr. Ambrose answered that the human ear is the best measure of sound. Mr. Haworth argued that people's hearing differed, citing the difference between a young and older person. Mr. Ambrose answered that it did not differ that much.

Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Ambrose for his presentation.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

At 7:08 p.m., the Board met with department heads for a meeting to prepare for the annual hurricane preparedness meeting, scheduled for the West Island Community Center on June 17.

Present were: Marc Jodoin, members of the EMA, Michael Myers, Vincent Furtado, Ed Fortin, John Charbonneau, Linda Schick, John Rogers, Tim Cox, Dave Darmofal, Paul Kitchen, Bob Baldwin, Anne Sylvia, members of the BPW, and members of the Housing Authority.

The Chairman asked for a brief overview from each department regarding changes they thought would be necessary for the hurricane preparedness manual. The Board addressed departments in order as they appear in the manual.

Water Department: Mr. Fortin advised that the only changes he made to his manual would reflect better coordination with the Sewer department to improve preparations prior to the

storm's arrival. Mr. Fortin said that the BPW would issue a reverse 911 in the event of water shut-off.

Sewer Department: Ms. Schick said that her changes had basically been covered by Mr. Fortin. She cited safety concerns at the boat ramp pump station with sight-seers preventing access to the pump.

Highway Department: Mr. Charbonneau advised that he would like to see the some of the highway emergency response team at the Fire station to improve communication in a storm event. BPW Superintendent Vincent Furtado said that he would like to have a member of his clerical staff present for the next event, to free up emergency response workers from having to answer phones.

BPW: Member Steve Riley said that it would help if residents tried to get their hurricane stickers earlier in the storm season to prevent long lines in the days leading up to a forecasted storm. Robert Hobson said that he thought they had an "outstanding team".

Fire Department: Chief Timothy Francis had a family emergency and was not present for the meeting, but he will present his section of the hurricane manual at the hurricane preparedness meeting on June 17.

Police Department: Chief Michael Myers advised the Selectmen to open an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) next time a serious storm is predicted to hit Fairhaven. He said that the absence of an EOC in the February 8, 2013 blizzard was problematic. He said it was important to have everyone in one room to maximize communication among departments. Additionally, Chief Myers suggested enacting a town-wide order to keep unnecessary vehicles off the roads. He thought sight-seers should be ordered away from the storm barrier and Fort Phoenix.

Mr. Murphy added that he thought the storm preparedness meeting should be held earlier than it usually is, in preparation of the storm. Chief Myers said that department designees could rotate their shifts, starting earlier.

Mr. Osuch said that all of the necessary procedures were already outlined in the manual. He said the storm tracking was the Fire Department's role. There are procedures to follow for each zone the hurricane enters. Mr. Osuch said that the Town was not following the plan it had drafted years ago. If the Town followed the manual, it would not run into problems, he said. The order of command is: Selectman Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk, Town Clerk, then Chief of Police. The Executive Secretary is the EOC coordinator.

Mr. Espindola said that there had been discussion to possibly enact the EOC at the last meeting. He said that the Town did not have to follow the protocol for every single storm.

Mr. Charbonneau said that NSTAR had been part of the problem in the last storm. NSTAR was supposed to send a designee for the command center. Mr. Osuch said that NSTAR was not going to send designees in the command center. For the first 48 hours of a storm, said Mr. Osuch, we are on our own.

Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Osuch to reach out to NSTAR to see if their hurricane plan has changed.

EMA: Director Marc Jodoin agreed that the Town should have established an EOC for the last storm. He said that the school janitor took it upon himself to close the shelter in the blizzard. He said that the plan is called the hurricane plan, but it can be used for any emergency situation or disaster.

Mr. Murphy said that communication had to improve with media outlets. He said that he called WBSM in the last storm to report that Fairhaven had opened a shelter because no one had called it in.

Discussion ensued over establishing an EOC, and shelter operations. Dr. Baldwin said he had difficulties in opening a shelter during the February blizzard. He said a lot of his staff lived in other towns and cities and travel was difficult.

Mr. Murphy said that protocol needs to include finding shelter for seniors in the event of a blizzard with electricity loss. Mr. Espindola said that he wanted to see the Town Clerk removed from the chain of emergency response authorities. He said that the Executive Secretary would be a more appropriate choice for inclusion in the hierarchy. The Board agreed it would make more sense to have emergency information available prior to, and during, storm events, both on the Town website and on Government Cable Access to reduce the number of calls received by emergency workers. John Rogers suggested designating a Public Information Officer to disseminate information in the event of a storm to prevent misinformation. Chief Myers said that the hurricane plan names Mr. Osuch as the Public Information Officer.

Mr. Haworth said that it was important to enact the EOC in the event of major storms. He advised departments to take the upcoming year to update their hurricane plans. He added that, if the Town needed to open a shelter, then the Town should automatically open the EOC as well.

Harbormaster: Mr. Darmofal said it was important to get boats out of the water in advance of the storm. He added that many insurance companies will even reimburse boat removal. In the event of a predicted storm, Mr. Darmofal said that he would not allow anchoring south of the bridge. Harbormaster vessels will be removed from the water once winds become sustained at 30 mph. The Natural Resources department will use a "ticket" system for orderly removal of boats from the water. Deputies will be stationed at the boat ramps.

Mr. Haworth said that, as soon as the EOC is enacted, they should outline the coastal areas that are inaccessible to the public.

Council on Aging – Ms. Sylvia asked the Board to consider pulling the vans out of the town yard and leaving them in a location that is more accessible. She stated that she had spent a lot of time digging them out of the last blizzard. Mr. Osuch disagreed with a new arrangement for the vans, saying that anywhere they are placed, they will have to be shoveled out, and at the BPW, they are at least in a parking lot that will be plowed. Mr. Darmofal suggested housing the vans in the BPW ports while the trucks are out plowing. Mr. Haworth disagreed with Mr. Osuch, saying

that the vans would be useful in a storm for transporting vulnerable people. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Sylvia to put her request in writing for the Board to consider.

Housing Authority – Ms. Sheedy thanked the Board for including the Housing Authority in the hurricane preparations this year. She reviewed the types of housing included under the Authority. She said in the 2013 blizzard, there were 92 residents without heat in the Town's housing for 48 hours. She reminded the public that the Housing Authority was independent living, not assisted living. It does not have the staff or facilities to do what everyone wants it to do, she said.

Housing Authority Chairman Jay Simmons added that Ms. Sheedy had a draft copy of an emergency response plan that he would submit in draft format to the Board of Selectmen. A final draft will follow once approved, he said.

The Hurricane Preparedness meeting will follow on June 17, said Mr. Murphy.

2013 GRADUATION

The Superintendent took a moment to thank the Selectmen for a great graduation ceremony on June 2. This year, \$2.5 million in scholarships was issued to Fairhaven graduates, said Dr. Baldwin. The graduation ceremony also recognized the students who selected a future in the armed forces. He said that the School Department also found out on Friday that it had received accreditation renewal for ten more years.

RECESS

The Board recessed for five minutes from 8:23 p.m. to 8:28 p.m.

ESTUARIES STUDY

At 8:28 p.m., the Board received an overview of the UMass Dartmouth estuaries study. Ed Eichner, Senior Scientist at the School of Science and Technology, was present. Brian Howe and Roland Samimy were not present for the appointment.

Before presenting the PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Kakley asked Mr. Eichner to send the presentation to her electronically if he could, for inclusion in the minutes.

The presentation focused on restoration of estuary habitats and watershed health. Mr. Eichner discussed nitrogen loading, including "overall load" vs. "controllable load". The study focused on the estuaries of the Nasketucket River, Knollmere Stream, and Shaw's Cove.

Mr. Osuch asked if the last samples were taken in 2005. Mr. Eichner said that samples were taken as recently as last summer. Mr. Osuch said that there have been some Sconticut Neck Road sewer tie-ins since some of the data collecting that could have affected the report.

The topic of the meeting shifted to the Town assessment for the estuaries study. The Town was assessed \$114,000.00 in 2005 to contribute to the report. The Town has paid \$79,000.00. The June 3, 2013 presentation was the first "deliverable" the Town had seen in regards to the estuaries report. According to Mr. Osuch, the representatives of the estuaries study were looking for the Selectmen to extend its contract for 30 days (to June 30, 2013) and they were looking for payment on the remaining balance of \$35,000. Mr. Espindola asked if the Board could anticipate "significant milestones and deliverables" before June 30, 2013. Mr. Osuch said that he understood that the draft report of the estuaries study was in the hands of Mass DEP and the DEP would have to give comments. Final submission is planned for end of June 2013.

Mr. Haworth noted that the extension was only 30 days and he said he would be supportive of the short extension.

Mr. Espindola noted that this is an important report, significant to the future of planning. Mr. Eichner noted that the DEP was not commenting on the report and he said that he hoped comment from the Board of Selectmen would prompt comment from the DEP.

Mr. Osuch said that there would be another report coming out from the UMass Dartmouth estuaries study regarding the New Bedford Harbor side of Fairhaven and that news would not be as good as this first report. He said that the report was supposed to take two years, but it had taken almost seven years. The New Bedford harbor report essentially had to be re-done because some of the data was so old its accuracy was in question.

Mr. Murphy said he was comfortable with the requested contract extension. Mr. Murphy recognized Steve Riley. Mr. Riley said that he grew up on Sconticut Neck and that he saw wildlife along the coast diminish in the 1970s, but that he had seen the fauna return in abundance in recent years. Mr. Eichner did not have a definitive answer for Mr. Riley's observation.

Mr. Murphy noted that the invoice provided by UMass Dartmouth for the estuaries study had two different requested sums on it – one for 10,000.00 and one for 20,000.00. He said that the Board could not approve an invoice with two different figures on it. Mr. Eichner said that he would return the invoice to his staff and have a revised invoice submitted.

Mr. Espindola motioned to extend the contract with UMass Dartmouth for 30 days, to June 30, 2013. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

The Board made its annual reappointments to boards, committees, and positions.

Catherine Mindlin was appointed the Animal Control Officer and Rebekah Tomlinson was appointed the secondary Animal Control Officer, both with one-year terms. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Francis Cox was appointed to a five-year term as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Albert Benac was appointed to a one-year term as the Art Curator. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Pamela Davis, Ellis Withington and Ronald Manzone were appointed Board of Assessors for one-year terms, each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Espindola motioned to appoint the Beautification Committee, but the motion failed with no second. Mr. Haworth said that he wanted to see if the Beautification Committee was an active committee. It was thought that Wayne Oliveira is the chairman of the Committee, which has not met in over a year. Mr. Oliveira will be called and asked about the status of the Committee.

Mark Badwey, Matthew Coes, Kenneth Pottel, Robert Espindola, Rene Fleurent, Susan Sullivan, and Geoffrey Sullivan were appointed to the Bikeways Committee for one-year terms each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Bethany Sykes, Lawrence Roy, Gerald Stabell, Nancy Parent, Wayne Oliveira, Linda Meredith, Sheila Tunstall McKenna, Ethel Frates, Myra Lopes, Diane Lopes, Ian Dobson, Martha Crowley, Ellsworth Sylvaria, John Rogers, John Medeiros, Beth Luey, Alex Kuechler, Victor Oliveira, Anne Mozzone, Natalie Hemingway, Angela Dawicki, Charles Cromwell, Rev. Dennis Barnett, and Nancy Perry were appointed to the Bicentennial Committee for one-year terms each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). This will be the final year for the Bicentennial Committee.

Frank Coelho, Timothy Cox, Martin Henriques, Ted Lorentzen, Ronald LaCasse, Peter Nopper, and David Hebert were appointed to the Boat Ramp and Waterfront Recreational Property Committee for one-year terms each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

John Cottrill was appointed Chief Wire Inspector for a one-year term; Roger Poitras, Jr, was appointed Associate Wire Inspector for a one-year term; Kevin Vasconcellos was appointed Associate Wire Inspector for a one-year term; Norman Lussier was appointed Plumbing Inspector for a one-year term; Henry Daigle was appointed gas inspector for a one-year term; William Alphonse, Jr, was appointed Temporary Gas Inspector for a one-year term. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Herbert Eddleston, Barbara Acksen, Robert Espindola and Ronnie Medina were appointed to the Cable Advisory Committee for one-year terms each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Milan Whitaker, Richard Ferreira, Timothy Garcia, Steven Borges, Robert Jones, Lawrence Machado, John Serpa, Eugene Thomas, Gary F. Souza, Harve W. Vandal, Jr., Pamela Bourgault, Matthew Botelho, Edward Riggs, Kevin Kobza, Michael Bouvier, Jr., Eileen Lowney, and David Miller were each appointed to constables for one-year terms. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Brian Rego, Maria DeOliveira, and Paul Schroeder were appointed to the Commission on Disability for three-year terms each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Al Borges was appointed to a three-year term on the Council on Aging; Joseph Borelli, Jack Oliveira, Elaine O'Neill and Dorothy Reid were appointed to one-year terms each on the Council on Aging. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Donna Wunschel, Kathy Lopes, Stephanie Igo, Timothy Watterson, Sheila Dolan, Anne Jorgensen, John Jorgensen, Gail Evangelho, Melissa Tavares, Richard Ciccone, and Kevin Viveiros were each appointed to a one-year term on the Dog Park Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Marc Jodoin was appointed Emergency Management Agency director. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Sharon M. Dorian, Don Wilkinson, Julianne Kelly, Sara Salem, Margaret McQuilkin, and Maureen Sylvia were each appointed to a three-year term on the Fairhaven Cultural Council. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

The Board discussed the Fire Apparatus Study Committee and Fire Department Building Committee and noted that the Town Clerk did not have record of these committees meeting regularly. As such, the Board decided to ask the Fire Chief more about the committees at the next Selectmen's meeting. The Board took no action on appointments for these two committees.

Charles Cromwell, Cynthia McNaughten, Gail Isaksen, and John Medeiros were appointed full members of the Historical Commission with three-year terms each; Dorothy Gammans, Anne O'Brien-Kakley, and Vicki Paquette were appointed associate members of the Historical Commission with one-year terms each. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Louis Badwey was appointed to a four-year term on the Millicent Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Antone Medeiros was appointed the Measurer of Wood and Bark. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Frank Rezendes was appointed to the Martha's Vineyard/Nantucket Steamship Authority. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Alfred Raphael was appointed to a three-year term on the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District Commission. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Osuch asked Ms. Kakley to send a memo to the MRVWDC regarding Mr. Raphael's re-appointment.

David Darmofal was appointed to a one-year term as Harbormaster; David Crowley was appointed to a three-year term as Deputy Shellfish Constable; Mark Monteiro, George Hubert, Don Gifford, James Hennessy, Paul Sylvia, Betsy LeBeau, Katelyn Daignault, and Daniel Lopes were all appointed to one-year terms as Deputy Shellfish Constables. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Timothy Francis was appointed to a one-year term as Oil Spill Coordinator. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Anne O'Brien-Kakley was appointed to a one-year term as Parking Clerk. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Lindsay Gordon was appointed to a two-year term on the Personnel Board. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Herbert Eddleston was appointed to a three-year term as a Registrar of Voters. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Barbara Acksen, Gail Isaksen, Pam Kuechler, Lisa Elliot, John Medeiros, Jeffrey Lucas, Nils Isaksen, Jimmie Oliver, Stephen Desroches, Rona Trachtenberg, Thomas Alden Sr., Al Benac, Paul Kitchen, Gayla Reilly, Bevely Rasmussen, and Karen Vilandry were each appointed to a one-year term on the Rogers-Oxford Study Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

No appointments were made to the Shellfish Advisory Committee. The Town Clerk's records indicated that they had not met in over a decade. The Board decided it would talk to Tim Cox about the Committee.

The Chairman noted that appointments to the JTPG Representative (Bill Roth), the JTPG Alternate (Vincent Furtado), the SRPEDD Commissioner (Bill Roth), the SRTA Commissioner (Robert Espindola), and the Veterans' Benefits and Service and Burial Agent (James Cochran) were all made in April 2013.

Bill Elliot, Lisa Elliot, Robert Espindola, Deirdre Healy, Ann Richard, Susan Spooner, Laurie Hellstrom, Vincent Marron, Kathy Audette, and Marianne Murray were each appointed to one-year terms on the Sustainability Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Carol Brandolini was appointed Tax Collector for a one-year term. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

The Board did not make appointments to the Tourism Committee. The Board will contact Tourism Director Chris Richard about the Tourism Committee and ask for written comment. No appointments were made to the Conservation Commission. The only member who was up for renewal was Andrew Jones, and he submitted a letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Jones also submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to a Local Emergency Planning Committee. As there is no active LEPC, the Board took the request under advisement and will discuss the formation of such a committee at a future meeting. In the meantime, the Board requested that all those interested in applying for the Conservation Commission to submit their letters of interest to the Selectmen's Office.

SCRAMBLERS

The Chairman read a memo from the Building Commissioner, saying that the owners of Scramblers restaurant were being uncooperative in allowing the Commissioner to perform a routine inspection of the restaurant. The owner of the restaurant has not replied to certified mail requesting an appointment. Mr. Haworth asked why the Building Commissioner did not just show up to the restaurant in person and request an appointment.

Mr. Espindola motioned to send a letter to Scramblers requesting compliance with Mr. Fostin to make an appointment for an inspection. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). The Board also decided to ask Mr. Fostin to visit the premises to make an appointment.

TAX TITLE

The Board reviewed three tax title properties and their assessments: one on Diamond Street, one on Grandview, and the old Staffon's nursery on Alden Road. (See Attachment B). Mr. Murphy asked if it was the will of the Board to auction these parcels. Mr. Espindola remembered that last year, when the parcels were discussed in a meeting, Bill Roth had mentioned the possibility of using a Town property for Habitat for Humanity. It was agreed that any action taken on the parcels should come after conferring with Mr. Roth and the Finance Director. An appointment will be made with Mr. Roth and Ms. Graves for an upcoming meeting to discuss this matter.

ADAMS STREET NO PARKING REQUEST

Chief Myers was present at 10:16 p.m. to update the Board on a request from a Town resident for a stretch of "No Parking" on Adams Street, from Route 6 to Bridge Street. Chief Myers said that he was working with a neighbor to find an alternative parking solution for him. In the meantime, he said that he thought it would be a good idea to form a committee of Police Department and BPW employees, charged with reviewing all safety requests. Such a committee would then bring recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for a vote. The Board was supportive of the request. It will be discussed again at a later date.

PARK MOTORS PROPERTY

The Board read a letter of complaint from Lianne Girard regarding the Park Motors property on Main Street, currently being used as a staging area for CDBG equipment. Mr. Murphy acknowledged that the area did not look good during the Memorial Day parade. Mr. Haworth agreed and asked if there was a chance that they could arrange to have temporary fencing placed

on the site. Mr. Murphy said that he would like to see written comment or meet with Mr. Roth to discuss the matter. In the meantime, Chief Myers commented on the related issue of illegal overnight parking at the Park Motors site. He said that neighbors complaining of the illegal parking should report it to the Police Department for towing.

HARBOR MIST LETTER

The Board reviewed a letter from the Harbor Mist Condominium Trust regarding the proposed clear-cutting of an NSTAR 100-ft wide right-of-way, scheduled to begin in mid-June, to be repeated every three years. The letter from Harbor Mist was courtesy-copied to the Board of Selectmen, with the primary recipients being Representative Bill Straus and State Senator Mark Montigny. See Attachment C.

Mr. Haworth asked if there was a Town ordinance that prohibited clear-cutting of this magnitude. The answer was not known at the time of the meeting. The Board indicated it would like to speak with an NSTAR representative, if Mr. Osuch could arrange it. Mr. Osuch said that he would try to get in touch with someone at NSTAR regarding the matter.

CUSHMAN PARK EASEMENT

The Board read a letter from resident Brad Souza asking the Board to waive the legal fees associated with the easement that Town Meeting had granted him at May 5, 2012 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Souza said in the letter that he would be willing to pay the Registry filing fees, but that he does not think he should have to pay the legal costs incurred by the Town. Mr. Murphy said that he was not sure what the status was on the easement. He said that Mr. Souza had requested Executive Session for discussion on the easement, but that he could not grant the request for Executive Session. Mr. Osuch said that there were no new updates on the easement. Mr. Murphy said that he would like to invite Mr. Souza to come to a meeting to discuss the matter.

DOGS IN TOWN BUILDINGS

The Board read a memo from Anne Kakley regarding recent issues with dogs in the Town Hall. Recently, a resident tried to pet a dog in the Collector's Office and was told by the owner to stay away because the dog bites. Ms. Kakley expressed concern about the lack of policy regarding dogs in Town buildings, and the Town's potential liability.

Mr. Murphy said that dogs, except for service animals, should be banned from Town Hall. Mr. Espindola and Mr. Haworth agreed, with Mr. Haworth saying that the ban should extend to all Town buildings (except the Animal Shelter). The Board indicated that it would start with a sign at the Town Hall banning dogs and then would extend it to the other Town buildings at a later date. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). At 10:36 p.m., Mr. Osuch left the room to turn the Town Hall alarm off.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business:

• The Board again commended the School Department and community for another nice graduation ceremony.

At 10:38 p.m., Mr. Espindola motioned to enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL Ch 30 § 21:

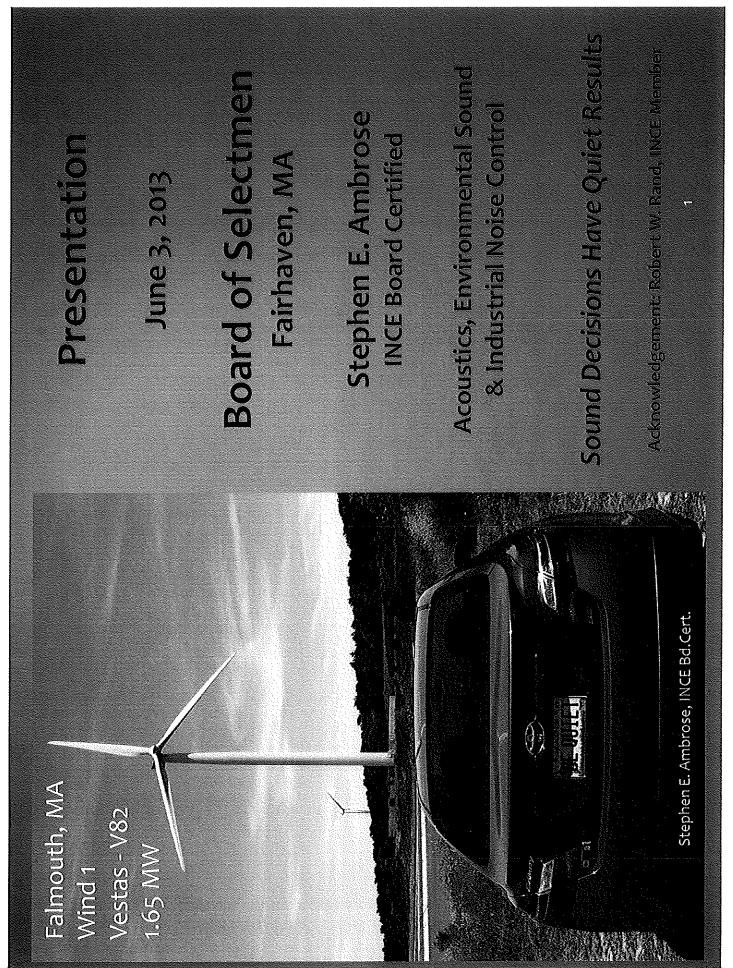
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining Clerical, Fire, Police, Dispatchers Union negotiations
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation Seaport Inn
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation Justin Downey

Mr. Haworth seconded the motion to enter Executive Session for the aforementioned reasons. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Roll call vote: Mr. Espindola in favor. Mr. Murphy in favor. Mr. Haworth in favor.

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

Selectmen's Secretary Minutes approved 6/17/2013



Altachment A

10000 Predicted vs Measured • 0 0 0 Distance from turbine, feet ----3-dB/dd-beyond-200m, Swedish-study, 2001. 1000 Predicted, Feasibility Study, 2011. -6-dB//dd-over land, ISO-9613-2. ---5 dB/dd, NMMA, 1987. -Vinalhaven-2010 Freedom-2010. 100 A8b ni ləvəJ bnuo2 ଅ 60 30 20 20

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NOISE COMPLAINTS ?

interferes with normal human activity; Neighbors complain when there is a noticeable increase in noise level objectionable sound character, > noise varies in loudness, tonal frequency,

sten by and steep.

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WHY NOISE COMPLAINTS ?

Common errors ...

present existing noise levels too loud,

> always minimize the noise level increase, no community noise impact assessment, use defective predictions & standards, confuse with too much information. A

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Widespread Complaints Threats of Community Action Vigorous Community Action	Medium Strong Very Strong	10 M 15 J 20 Very Stephen E. Ambrose, INCE Bd.
Widespread Complaints		10
Sporadic Complaints	Little	2
No Observed Reaction	None	
Description	Category	noise level criterion
Estimated Community Response	Estimat	dBA above
al Standards Organization ISO 1996-1:2003		Internation
, omplaint Response		Noise

MASSACHUSETTS NOISE LIMITS

MassDEP MaDEP 310 CMR 7.10

Increase in Sound Pressure Level

Human Reaction

Generate significant

complaints with

10+ dB increase

Maximum of **10** dB increase (when levels vary in loudness, Industrial wind turbines)

Maximum of 6 dB increase (levels do not vary) power generation (case law)

Unnoticed to tolerable; sporadic complaints

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Mass Law: Noise is an Air Contaminant

310 CMR 7.00 defines these terms as follows:

NOISE means sound of sufficient intensity an/or duration as to cause or contribute to a condition of air pollution.

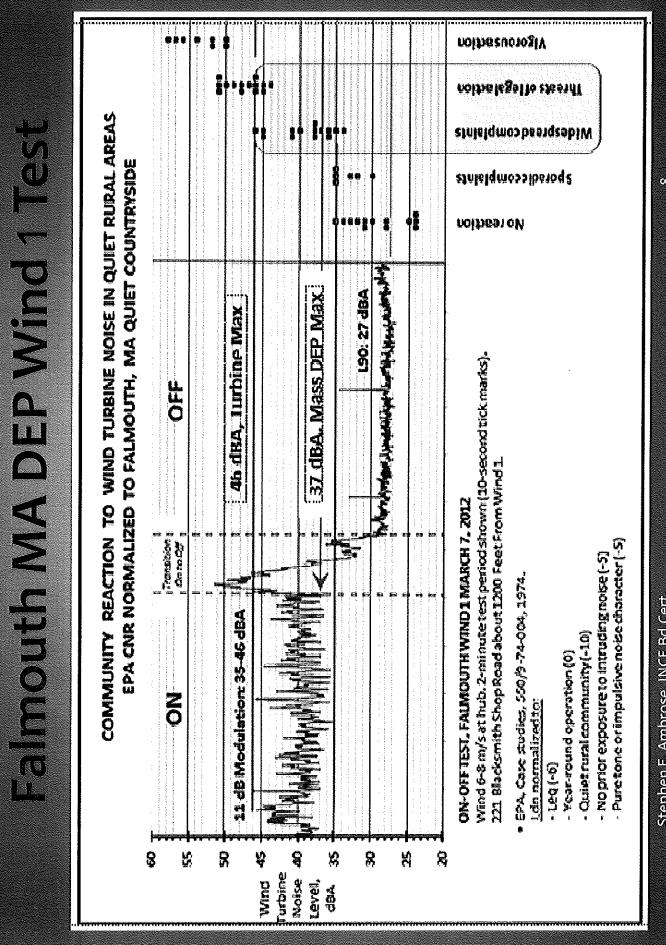
contaminants or combinations thereof in such concentrations and of such duration as to: AIR POLLUTION means the presence in the ambient air space of one or more air (a) cause à nuisance;

- (b) be injurious, or be on the basis of current information, potentially injurious to human or animal life, to vegetation, or to property; or
 - (c) unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property or the conduct of business.

The definition of "air contaminant" in the Regulations, includes sound:

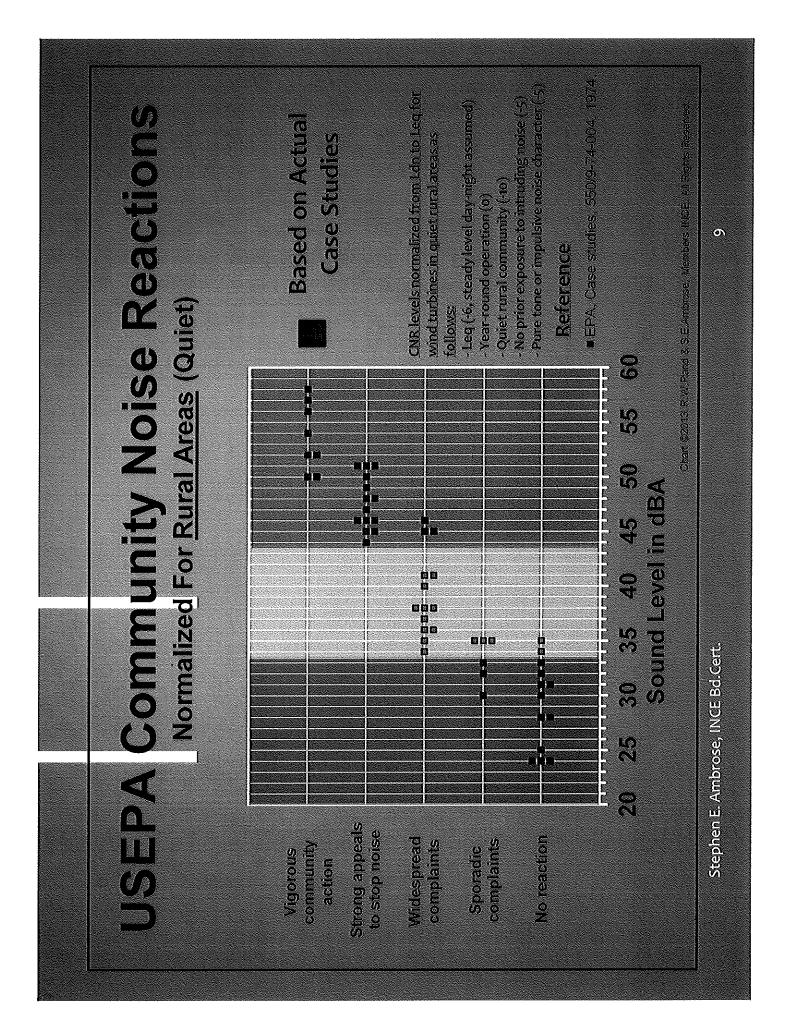
ambient air space and includes, but is not limited to, dust, flyash, gas, fume, mist, odor, smoke, vapor, pollen, microorganism, radioactive material, radiation, heat, sound, any AIR CONTAMINANT means any substance or man-made physical phenomenon in the combination thereof, or any decay or reaction product thereof.

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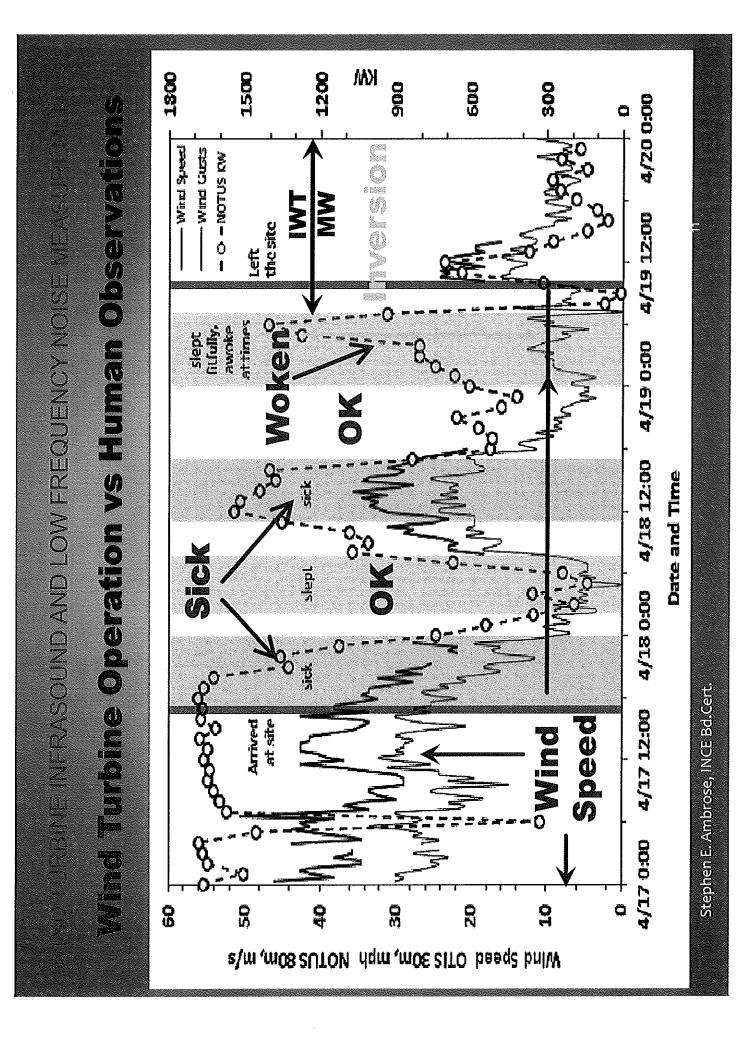


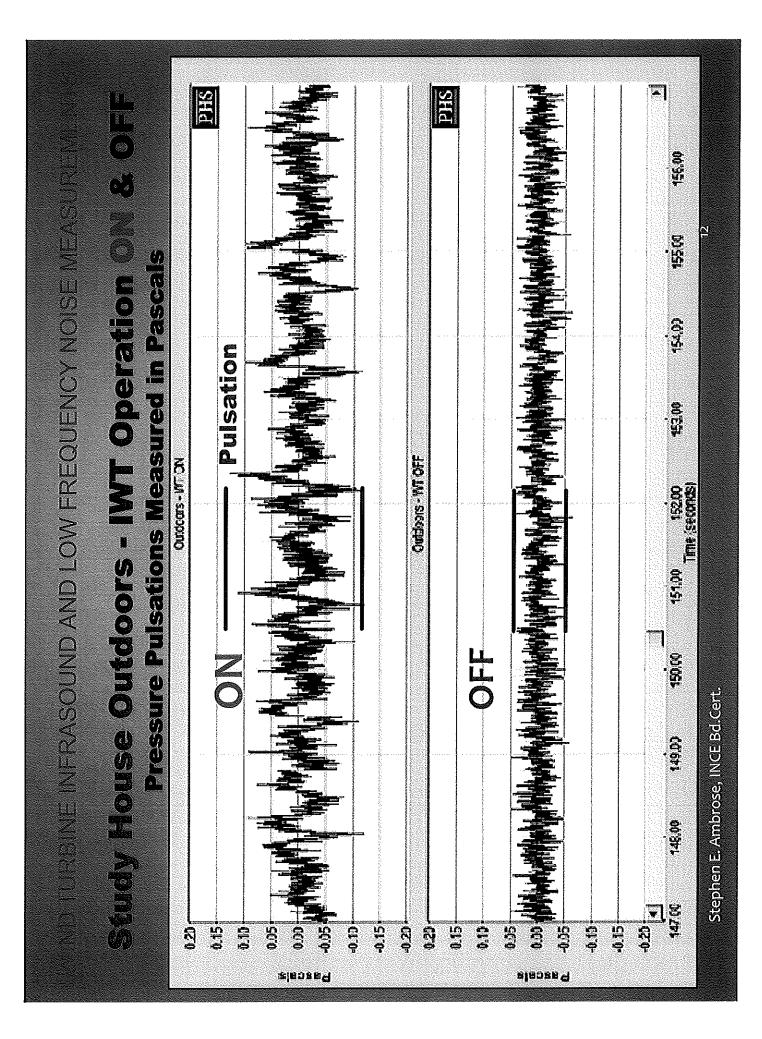
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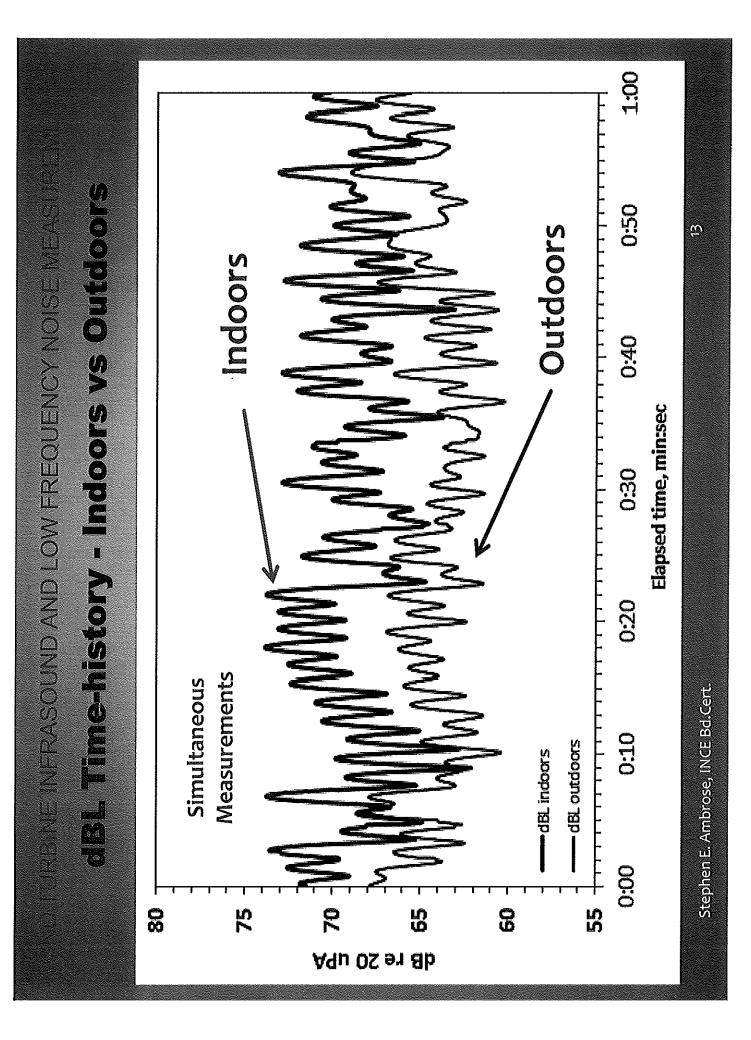
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	Pedersen, et al. 2009 Very Annoyed Pedersen's research shows that the public response to wind turbine noise occurs at levels 10 dB quieter than for planes, trains and traffic. Noise intered annoyance is an adverse health effect. Michaud, DS, keith, SE, McMurchy, D hoise Annoyance in Camada Noise Health, 7, 39-47	e vientes INCE at Reserved
immunity Noise Reaction Chart W Pedersen 2004 & 2009 Studies	Pedersen's Pedersen's the public i turbine noi dB quieter and traffic an advi Noise introvise Noise	5 50 55 60 dBA Charl 92013 R.M. Rand & S.E. Amtrose. Wenders INCE. A Regime Reserved.
		5 30 35 40 45 5 Sound Level in dBA e, INCE Bd.Cert.
The second s	Vigorous community action Strong appeals to stop noise Widespread complaints Sporadic complaints Ne reaction	20 25 30 3 Soun Stephen E. Ambrose, INCE Bd.Cert







TURBINE INFRASOUND AND LOW FREQUENCY NOISE MEASUR

Falmouth - Adverse Health Complaints - 2011

Category	Number Percent
Sleep Deprivation/ Fatigue	40 (85.1%)
Stress	25 (53.2%)
Cognitive difficulty	12 (25.5%)
Decreased memory, concentration	
Hearing problems	15 (31.9%)
Pressure, tinnitus, pain	
Headache	11 (23.4%)
Mental Health Problems	21 (44.7%)
Depression, mood disorders, anxiety	••••••
Systemic symptoms	10 (21.3%)
Increased BP, P, palpitations	
Difficulty with spatial relationships	6 (12.8%)
Vertigo, loss of balance	
Eye problems	3 (6.4%)
Difficult interpersonal relationships	2 (4.3%)
Thoughts of or attempted suicide	2 (4.3%)
Have symptoms; requested interview	6 (12.8%)
Total number with health effects	47
	6/11/2012

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Summary

Wind Turbine Complaints;

Occur at Low Noise Levels, > 35 dBA Adverse Public Health Symptoms.

Pedersen Research Shows;

Humans 10 dB more sensitive to IWT noise, Noise Complaints start at 25-30 dBA, and Rapid Increase Above 32-35 dBA.

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Public Reaction

Veighbors' complain when there is

- > Excessive noise,
- > Sleep interference,

>Adverse health impacts; and they > Seek alternate experts, and

> Consider legal action.

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Regulatory Response

Agencies and Boards

Nothing, ... Doubt, ... Deny ?

Seek academic & expert "advice",

> Remain befuddled,

Do not understand,

> Dither in place.

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Public Health & Wellbeing Guidelines

preserve and protect residential land-use, Acoustic design goal must always

Should not exceed, ...

community noise reaction of

sporadic complaints, ... or 5 dB

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<u>00</u>

Fairhaven bylaw, Section 198-24

Provides Very Good Public Protection

Noise is not allowed to be perceptible at residential property.

Perception definite at 3 dB increase.

Meets criteria for sporadic complaints

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MassDEP 310 CMR 7.10 Air Pollution Control

Provides Good Public Protection

exceed 10 dB above quietest background (Lgo or level exceeded go% of the time). Maximum noise level (Lmax) can not

If met, approximates sporadic complaints for sources that vary in loudness.

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PEER-REVIEWED PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY

Effects of industrial wind turbine noise on sleep and health

by Dr. Michael Nissenbaum, et.al.,

Research conducted at two Maine communities

1.5 MW industrial wind turbines,

>Mars Hill (28) and Vinalhaven (3),

Study included IWT neighbors and control group.

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R

Mental Component Score (MSC), > Daytime sleepiness: Epworth Sleepiness Score (ESS), PEER-REVIEWED PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY > Nighttime: Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), 8 Sleep quality focused on: > Physical Component Score (PSC). > General health, SF36 ver2; Stephen E. Ambrose, INCE Bd.Cert.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY

Residents received questionnaires;

> Based on participant-inclusion criteria,

> Individuals living within 1.4-km or 4592-ft of the nearest turbine,

> Baseline random samples collected from residents living, 3 to 6-km away,

or 9840 to 19680-ft

3

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PEER-REVIEWED PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY

Conclusion: Strong recommendation

for 1.5 MW IWT separation distance,

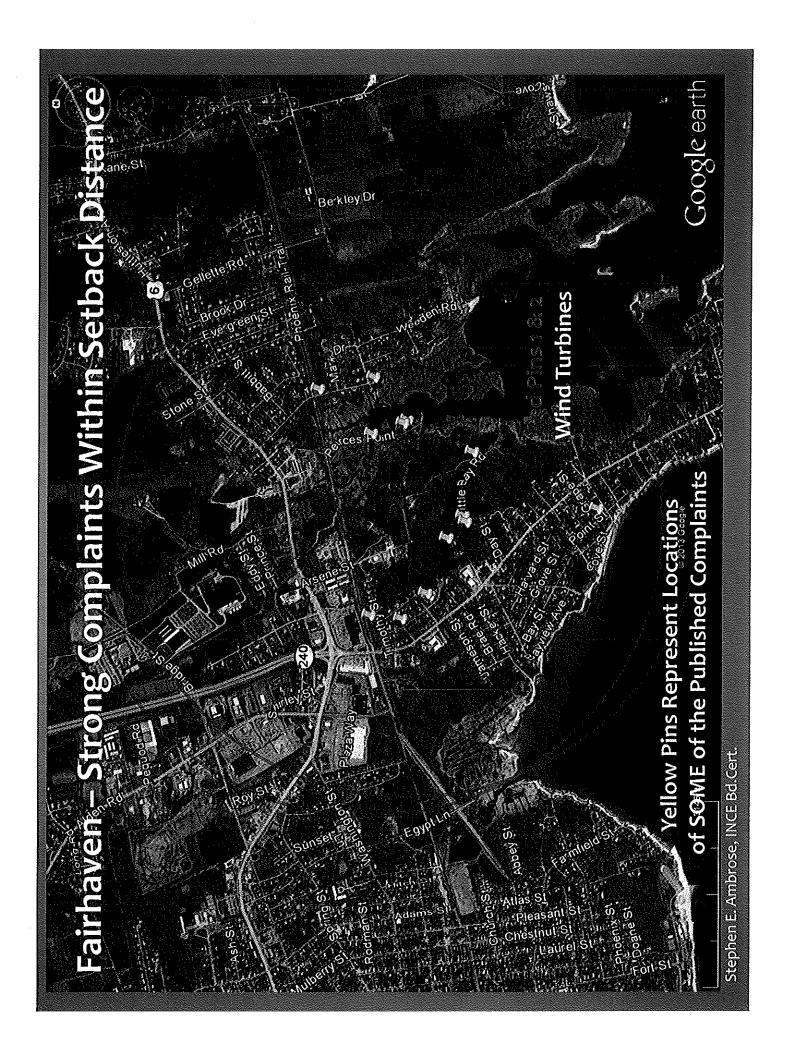
4592-ft

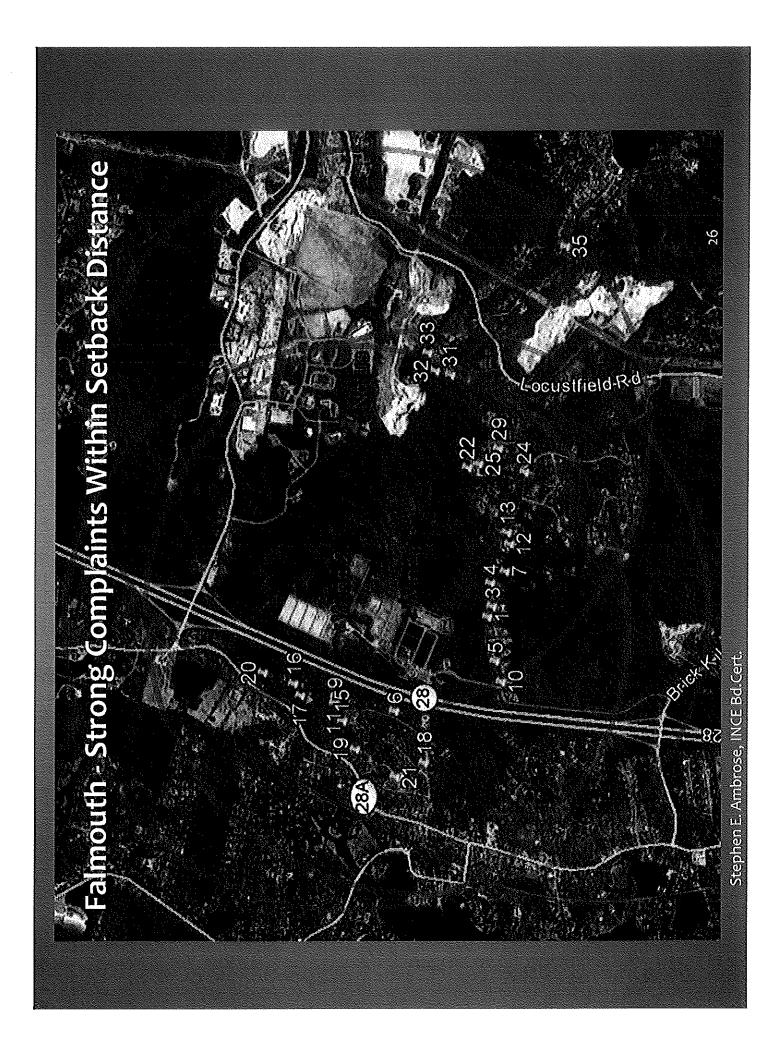
1.57 times total height

How does Fairhaven compare?

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24





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Sound Decisions Have Quiet Results

seaa@myfairpoint.net Tel: 207-892-6691

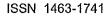
Windham, Maine 04062 15 Great Falls Road

Stephen E. Ambrose, INCE Board Certified **Owner and Principal Consultant**

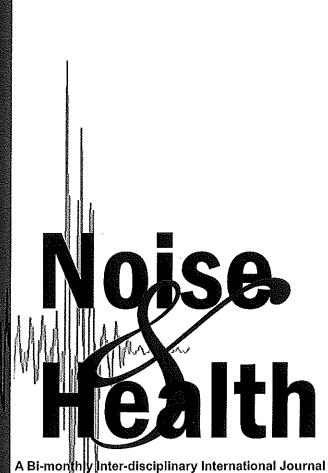
Please feel free to ask questions.

SE Ambrose & Associates

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Impact Factor[®] for 2011: 1.254



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Medknow

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Effects of industrial wind turbine noise on sleep and health

Michael A. Nissenbaum, Jeffery J. Aramini¹, Christopher D. Hanning²

Northern Maine Medical Center, Fort Kent, Maine, USA, 'Intelligent Health Solutions, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, ²University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, UK

Abstract

Industrial wind turbines (IWTs) are a new source of noise in previously quiet rural environments. Environmental noise is a public health concern, of which sleep disruption is a major factor. To compare sleep and general health outcomes between participants living close to IWTs and those living further away from them, participants living between 375 and 1400 m (n = 38) and 3.3 and 6.6 km (n = 41) from IWTs were enrolled in a stratified cross-sectional study involving two rural sites. Validated questionnaires were used to collect information on sleep quality (Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index — PSQI), daytime sleepiness (Epworth Sleepiness Score — ESS), and general health (SF36v2), together with psychiatric disorders, attitude, and demographics. Descriptive and multivariate analyses were performed to investigate the effect of the main exposure variable of interest (distance to the nearest IWT) on various health outcome measures. Participants living within 1.4 km of an IWT had worse sleep, were sleepier during the day, and had worse SF36 Mental Component Scores compared to those living further than 1.4 km away. Significant dose-response relationships between PSQI, ESS, SF36 Mental Component Score, and log-distance to the nearest IWT were identified after controlling for gender, age, and household clustering. The adverse event reports of sleep disturbance and ill health by those living close to IWTs are supported.

Keywords: Health, industrial wind turbines, noise, sleep

Introduction

Environmental noise is emerging as one of the major public health concerns of the twenty-first century.^[1] The drive to 'renewable', low-carbon energy sources, has resulted in Industrial Wind Turbines (IWTs) being sited closer to homes in traditionally quiet rural areas to reduce transmission losses and costs. Increasing numbers of complaints about sleep disturbance and adverse health effects have been documented,^[2-4] while industry and government reviews have argued that the effects are trivial and that current guidance is adequate to protect the residents.^[5,6] We undertook an epidemiological study to investigate the relationship between the reported adverse health effects and IWTs among residents of two rural communities.

Methods

General study design

This investigation is a stratified cross-sectional study involving two sites: Mars Hill and Vinalhaven, Maine,

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Quick Response Code:	Website: www.noiseandhealth.org					
	DOI: 10.4103/1463-1741.102961					
	PubMed ID; ***					

USA. A questionnaire was offered to all residents meeting the participant-inclusion criteria and living within 1.5 km of an industrial wind turbine (IWT) and to a random sample of residents, meeting participant inclusion criteria, living 3 to 7 km from an IWT between March and July of 2010. The protocol was reviewed and approved by Institutional Review Board Services, of Aurora, Ontario, Canada.

Questionnaire development

Adverse event reports were reviewed, together with the results of a smaller pilot survey of Mars Hill residents. A questionnaire was developed, which comprised of validated instruments relating to mental and physical health (SF-36v2)^[7] and sleep disturbance ((Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)^[8] and the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS)^[9]). In addition, participants were asked before-and-after IWT questions about sleep quality and insomnia, attitude toward IWTs, and psychiatric disorders. A PSQI score > 5 was taken to indicate poor sleep and an ESS score > 10 was taken to indicate clinically relevant daytime sleepiness.^[1-4] Responses to functional and attitudinal questions were graded on a five-point Likert scale with 1 representing the least effect and 5 the greatest. The questionnaire is available on request.

Study sites and participant selection

The Mars Hill site is a linear arrangement of 28 General Electric 1.5 megawatt turbines, sited on a ridgeline. The Vinalhaven site is a cluster of three similar turbines sited on

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a low-lying, tree-covered island. All residents living within 1.5 km of an IWT, at each site, were identified via tax maps, and approached either door-to-door or via telephone and asked to participate in the study (near group). Homes were visited thrice or until contact was made. Those below the age of 18 or with a diagnosed cognitive disorder were excluded. A random sample of households in similar socioeconomic areas, 3 to 7 km away from 1WTs at each site, were chosen to participate in the study to allow for comparison (far group). The households were approached sequentially until a similar number of participants were enrolled. A nurse practitioner supervised the distribution and ensured completion of the questionnaires.

Simultaneous collection of sound levels during data collection at the participants' residences was not possible, but measured IWT sound levels at various distances, at both sites, were obtained from publically available sources. At the Mars Hill site, a four quarter study was conducted and data from all four seasons were reported by power outputs at several key measurement points. The measurement points were located on or near residential parcels. The predicted and measured levels at full power were derived from figures in the Sound Level Study, Compilation of Ambient and Quarterly Operations Sound Testing, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Order No. L-21635-26-A-N. Measured noise levels versus distance at Vinalhaven were taken over a single day in February 2010, with the turbines operating at less than full power in moderate-to-variable northwest winds aloft (R and R, personal communication, 2011). Table 1 shows the estimated and measured noise levels at locations of varying distances and directions from the turbines at Mars Hill and Vinalhaven.

Data handling and validation

The Principal Investigator (Michael Nissenbaum, MD) did not handle data at any point in the collection or analysis phase. Questionnaire results were coded and entered into a spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel 2007). Each questionnaire generated over 200 data elements. The distance from each participant's residence to the nearest IWT was measured using satellite maps. The SF36-V2 responses were processed using Quality Metric Health Outcomes[™] Scoring Software 3.0 to generate Mental (MCS) and Physical (PCS) Component Scores.

Data quality of the SF36-V2 responses was determined using QualityMetric Health Outcomes[™] Scoring Software 3.0. All SF36-V2 data quality indicators (completeness, response range, consistency, estimable scale scores, internal consistency, discriminant validity, and reliable scales) exceeded the parameter norms. SF 36-V2 missing values were automatically accommodated by the scoring systems (99.9% questions were completed). No missing values were present for other parameters (ESS, PSQI, psychiatric and attitudinal observations, and demographics).

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able 1 A	leacured and nre	dicted noise les	ole at Mare Hill and
	regarded some his	untrea moise rea	els at Mars Hill and
⁷ inalhave			

	Mars hill					
Distance to nearestturbine	Predicted max. LAeq	Measured noise LAcq 1 hr ¹				
(m) ¹	1 hr ¹	Average	Range			
244	51	52	50 - 57			
320	48	50	48 – 53			
366	47	49	47 - 52			
640	42	44	40 47			
762	41	43	41 – 46			
1037	39	41	39 - 45			
1799	35	37	32 - 43			
Vinalhaven						
Distance to nearest	Measured Noise LAcq ²					
turbine (m) ²	Trend Average	Rar	ige			
150	53	51	Z 1			

turoine (m)-	Trend Average	Range	
152	53	51-61	
366	46	38-49	
595	41	39 - 49	
869	38	32 - 41	
1082	36	34 - 43	

¹ Values read or derived from report figures; accuracy + /- 50 m and + /- 1 Db² Values obtained with wind turbine noise dominating the acoustical environment, two-minute measurements during moderate-to-variable northwest winds aloft (less than full power)

Statistical analysis

All analyses were performed using SAS 9.22.^[10] Descriptive and multivariate analyses were performed to investigate the effect of the main exposure variable of interest (distance to the nearest IWT) on the various outcome measures. Independent variables assessed included the following: Site (Mars Hill, Vinalhaven); Distance to IWT (both as a categorical and continuous variable); Age (continuous variable); Gender (categorical variable). The dependent variables assessed included the following: Summary variables - Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), SF36-V2 Mental Component Score (MCS), SF36-V2 Physical Component Score (PCS); Before and after parameters sleep, psychiatric disorders (both self-assessed and diagnosed by a physician), attitude toward IWTs; and Medication use (both over-the-counter and prescription drugs). A P value of < 0.05 was regarded as being statistically significant.

Results

Study participants

Thirty-three and 32 adults were identified as living within 1500 m of the nearest IWT at the Mars Hill (mean 805 m, range 390 - 1400) and Vinalhaven sites (mean 771 m range 375 - 1000), respectively. Twenty-three and 15 adults at the Mars Hill and Vinalhaven sites respectively, completed the questionnaires. Recruitment of participants into the far group continued until there were similar numbers as in the near group, 25 and 16 for Mars Hill and Vinalhaven, respectively [Table 2].

Statistical results

The binomial outcomes were assessed using either the GENMOD procedure with binomial distribution and a logit link; or when cell frequencies were small (< 5), Fisher's Exact Test. When assessing the significance between variables with a simple score outcome (e.g., 1 - 5), the exact Wilcoxon Score (Rank Sums) test was employed using the NPAR1WAY procedure. Continuous outcome variables were assessed using the GENMOD procedure with normal distribution. When using the GENMOD procedure, age, gender, and site were forced into the model as fixed effects. The potential effect of household clustering on statistical significance was accommodated by using the REPEATED statement. Effect of site as an effect modifier was assessed by evaluating the interaction term (Site*Distance).

Participants living near IWTs had worse sleep, as

	Distanc		esidence to ner nean)	arest IWT
Parameter	375 750 (601)	751 – 1400 (964)	3300 - 5000 (4181)	5300 - 6600 (5800)
Sample size	18	20	14	27
Household clusters	11	12	10	23
Mean age	50	57	65	58
Male / Female	10/8	12/8	7/7	11/16
Mean time in home ¹	14	21	30	24

¹ Years that study participants lived in the home

evidenced by significantly greater mean PSQI and ESS scores [Table 3]. More participants in the near group had PSQI > 5 (P = 0.0745) and ESS scores > 10 (P = 0.1313), but the differences did not reach statistical significance. Participants living near IWTs were significantly more likely to report an improvement in sleep quality when sleeping away from home.

The near group had worse mental health as evidenced by significantly higher mean SF36 MCS (P = 0.0021) [Table3].There was no statistically significant difference in PCS (P = 0.9881). Nine participants in the near group reported that they had been diagnosed with either depression or anxiety since the start of turbine operations, compared to none in the far group. Nine of the 38 participants in the near group reported that they had been prescribed new psychotropic medications since the start of turbine operations compared with three of 41 in the far group (P = 0.06).

The ESS, PSQI, and SF36 scores were modeled against distance from the nearest IWT (Score = ln (distance) + gender + age + site [controlled for household clustering]), and the results are shown in Figures 1–3. In all cases, there were clear and significant dose-response relationships (P < 0.05), with the effect diminishing with increasing log-distance from IWTs. Log-distance fit the health outcomes better than distance. This was expected given that noise drops off as the log of distance. Measured sound levels were plotted against distance at the two sites on Figures 1-3.

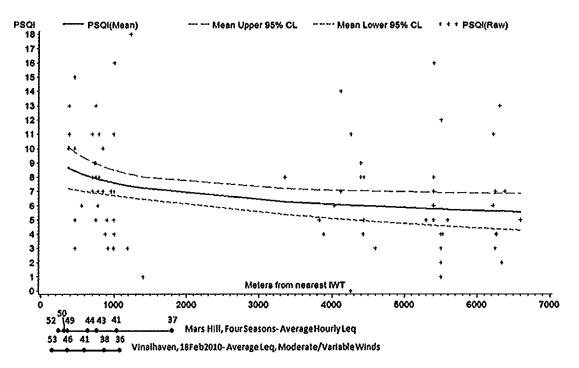


Figure 1: Modeled Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) versus distance to nearest IWT (mean and 95% confidence limits) Regression equation: PSQI = In (distance) + sex + age + site [controlled for household clustering]. Ln (distance) p-value = 0.0198

	Distance (m) from residence to nearest IWT (mean)										
Parameter	375-750 (601)	751-1400 (964)	375-1400 (792)	3300-5000 (4181)	5300-6600 (5800)	3000-6600 (5248)	P-Value ¹				
Mean PSQ1 ²	8.7	7.0	7.8	6.6	5.6	6.0)	0.0461				
% PSQI score > 5 ³	77.8	55.0	65.8	57.1	37.0	43.9	0.0745				
Mean ESS ⁴	7.2	8,4	7.8	6.4	5.3	5.7	0.0322				
% with ESS score > 10 ^s	16.7	30.0	23.7	14.3	7.4	9.8	0.1313				
Mean worsening sleep score post IWTs6	3.2	3,1	3.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	<.0001				
Improved sleep when away from IWTs	9/14	5/14	14/28	1711	1/23	2/34	<.0001				
% New sleep medications post IWTs	11.1	15.0	13.2	7.1	7.4	7.3	0.4711				
New diagnoses of insomnia			2			0					
Mean SF36 MCS	40.7	43.1	42.0	50.7	54.1	52.9	0.0021				
% Wishing to move away post IWTs	77.8	70.0	73.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.0001				

¹ Testing difference of 375 – 1400 m group with 3000 – 6600 m group ² Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index ³ PSQI > 5 is considered a 'poor sleeper'⁴ Epworth Sleepiness Scale ⁵ About 10 – 20 percent of the general population has ESS scores > 10 ⁶ (New sleep problems + Worsening sleep problem)/2; Strongly Agree (5) - Strongly disagree (1)

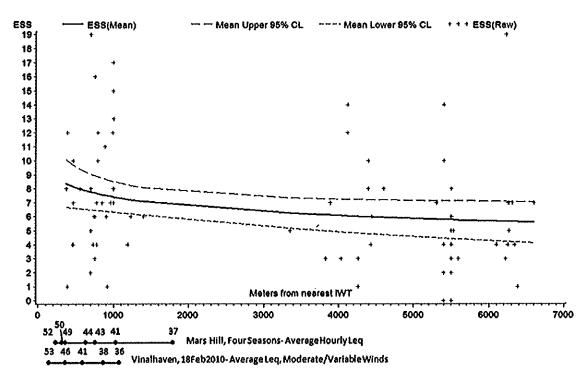


Figure 2: Modeled Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) versus Distance to nearest IWT (mean and 95% confidence limits) Regression equation: ESS = ln (distance) + sex + age + site [controlled for household clustering)]. ln (distance) p-value = 0.0331

There were no statistically significant differences between the near and far groups with respect to age, gender, or duration of occupation. In addition, Site, and Site*Distance were not significant, indicating that the modeled exposure-outcome relationships were similar across both sites.

Discussion

This study supports the conclusions of previous studies, which demonstrate a relationship between proximity to IWTs and the general adverse effect of 'annoyance',^[11-13] but differs in demonstrating clear dose-response relationships in important clinical indicators of health including sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, and mental health. The levels of sleep disruption and the daytime consequences of increased sleepiness, together with the impairment of mental health and the dose-response relationships observed in this study (distance from IWT vs. effect) strongly suggest that the noise from IWTs results in similar health impacts as other causes of excessive environmental noise¹.

The degree of effect on sleep and health from IWT noise seems to be greater than that of other sources of

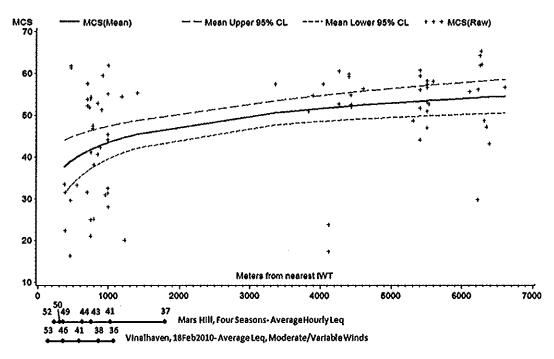


Figure 3: Modeled SF36 Mental Component Score (MCS) versus Distance to nearest IWT (mean and 95% confidence limits) Regression equation: MCS = ln (distance) + sex + age + site [controlled for household clustering]. ln (distance) p-value = 0.0014

environmental noise, such as, road, rail, and aircraft noise. Bray and James have argued that the commonly used noise metric of LAeq (averaged noise level adjusted to human hearing) is not appropriate for IWT noise, which contains relatively high levels of low frequency sound (LFN) and infrasound with impulsive characteristics.^[14] This has led to an underestimation of the potential for adverse health effects of IWTs.

Potential biases

Reporting and selection biases in this study, if they existed, may have underestimated the strength of the association between distance to IWTs and health outcomes. Both Mars Hill and Vinalhaven residents gain financially from the wind projects, either through reduced electricity costs and / or increased tax revenues. The fear of reducing property values was also cited as a reason for downplaying the adverse health effects. Conversely, the possibility of legal action could result in symptoms being over stated. It was clear to the respondents that the questionnaire was directed at investigating adverse health effects potentially associated with IWT noise and no distractor questions were included. Nevertheless, given the large differences in reported adverse health effects between participants living within 1400 m and those living beyond 3300 m of an IWT, we do not believe that bias alone could have resulted in the differences demonstrated between the groups. In addition, the finding of strong dose-response relationships with log-distance, together with extensive subanalyses using survey questions more and less likely to be influenced by bias demonstrating similar results, further support the existence of causative associations.

Visual impact and attitude are known to affect the psychological response to environmental noise.[11,15,16] At both sites, turbines are prominent features of the landscape and were visible to a majority of respondents; at Mars Hill, IWTs are sited along a 200 m high ridge, and Vinalhaven is a flat island. The visual impact on those living closest to turbines was arguably greater than on those living some distance away. Most residents welcomed the installation of IWTs for their proposed financial benefits and their attitudes only changed once they began to operate and the noise and health effects became apparent. Pedersen estimates that, with respect to annoyance, 41% of the observed effects of IWT noise could be attributed to attitude and visual impact.[11] The influence of these factors on other consequences, such as the health effects investigated in this study, remains to be determined. Even as these factors may have contributed to the reported effects, they are clearly not the sole mechanism and health effects are certain.

Mechanisms

A possible mechanism for the observed health effects is an effect on sleep from the noise emitted by IWTs. Industrial wind turbines emit high levels of noise with a major low frequency component. The noise is impulsive in nature and variously described as 'swooshing' or 'thumping'.^[12] The character, volume, and frequency of the noise vary

with changes in wind speed and direction. Industrial wind turbine noise is more annoying than road, rail, and aircraft noise, for the same sound pressure, presumably due to its impulsive character.^[12,15] Pedersen concludes that it is noise that prevents restoration, that those subjected to it are unable to find psychological recovery in their homes because of its intrusive nature.^[16] Noise can affect sleep by preventing sleep onset or return to sleep following spontaneous or induced awakening. Clearly, attitude and psychological factors such as noise sensitivity may be important in influencing the ability to fall asleep, but it should be noted that noise sensitivity is, in part, heritable.^[17] Noise also affects sleep by inducing arousals, which fragment sleep, reducing its quality and leading to the same consequences as sleep deprivation.^[18] There is good evidence that road, rail, and aircraft noise induce arousals and lead to daytime consequences and there is no reason to suppose that IWT noise will not have a similar effect.^[19-23] A recent study on the likelihood of different hospital noises that induce an arousal shows a considerable effect of sound character, with impulsive noises being more likely to induce an arousal.^[24] It has also been shown that there is individual variability in the likelihood of an arousal in response to noise, which may be predicted from a spindle index, a measure of sleep quality.[25]

ESS assesses daytime sleepiness from the self-assessed propensity to fall asleep in different situations averaged over several weeks.^[9] It is widely used in sleep medicine to assess daytime sleepiness, and scores in excess of 10 are deemed to represent clinically relevant excessive daytime sleepiness. If sleep is only disrupted occasionally, the ESS will not be affected, as the sleep deficit can be compensated on other nights. Changes in the ESS score observed in this study imply that sleep has been disrupted to a degree where compensation is not possible in at least some participants. PSQI also examines the sleep quality averaged over a period of weeks, scores in excess of 5 are deemed to represent poor quality sleep.^[8] An individual's score will not be significantly affected by occasional disrupted nights, thus confirming the conclusions drawn from the ESS data. It is noteworthy also that significant changes in ESS and PSQI have been observed, despite the scatter in values indicative of the typical levels of impaired sleep found in the general population.[8,9]

Other mechanisms than sleep disruption cannot be excluded as an explanation for the psychological and other changes observed. Low frequency noise, and in particular, impulsive LFN, has been shown to be contributory to the symptoms of 'Sick Building Syndrome,' which has similarities with those reported here.^[26,27] Salt has recently proposed a mechanism, whereby, infrasound from IWTs could affect the cochlear and cause many of the symptoms described.^[28]

We assessed causality using a well-accepted framework.^[29] Although the measured parameters (ESS, PSQI, and SF36)

assess the current status, the evidence of the respondents is that the reported changes have followed the commencement of IWT operation. This is supported by the reported preferences of the residents; the great majority of those living within 1.4 km expressed their desire to move away as a result of the start of turbine operations. However, a study of the same population before and after turbine operation will be necessary to confirm our supposition. We believe that there is good evidence that a time sequence has been established. The association between distance to IWT and health outcome is both statistically significant and clinically relevant for the health outcomes assessed, suggesting a specific association between the factors. Given that this is the first study investigating the association between IWTs and a range of health outcomes, the consistency and replication to prove causation is limited. However, this study includes two different study populations living next to two different IWT projects. Despite these differences, the study site was not a significant effect modifier among any of the measured outcomes. In addition, adverse health effects similar to those identified in this study among those living near IWTs, have been documented in a number of case-series studies and surveys.^[2-4,30] Finally, causal association can be judged by its coherence with other known facts about the health outcomes and the causal factor under study. The results of this study are consistent with the known effects of other sources of environmental noise on sleep.

The data on measured and estimated noise levels were not adequate to construct a dose-response curve and to determine an external noise level below which sleep disturbance will not occur. However, it is apparent that this value will be less than an average hourly LAeq of 40 dBA, which is the typical night time value permitted under the current guidance in most jurisdictions.

Conclusions

We conclude that the noise emissions of IWTs disturbed the sleep and caused daytime sleepiness and impaired mental health in residents living within 1.4 km of the two IWT installations studied. Industrial wind turbine noise is a further source of environmental noise, with the potential to harm human health. Current regulations seem to be insufficient to adequately protect the human population living close to IWTs. Our research suggests that adverse effects are observed at distances even beyond 1 km. Further research is needed to determine at what distances risks become negligable, as well as to better estimate the portion of the population suffering from adverse effects at a given distance.

Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Carl Phillips, Rick James, INCE and Robert Rand, INCE for their review of the manuscript.

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Announcement

"QUICK RESPONSE CODE" LINK FOR FULL TEXT ARTICLES

The journal issue has a unique new feature for reaching to the journal's website without typing a single letter. Each article on its first page has a "Quick Response Code". Using any mobile or other hand-held device with camera and GPRS/other internet source, one can reach to the full text of that particular article on the journal's website. Start a QR-code reading software (see list of free applications from http://tinyurl.com/yzlh2tc) and point the camera to the QR-code printed in the journal. It will automatically take you to the HTML full text of that article. One can also use a desktop or laptop with web camera for similar functionality. See http://tinyurl.com/2bw7fn3 or http://tinyurl.com/3ysr3me for the free applications.

Anne Kakley

From:	Stephen Ambrose [seaa@myfairpoint.net]
Sent:	Friday, May 24, 2013 2:06 PM
To:	Anne Kakley
Cc:	lbarteau@comcast.net; molife@aol.com
Subject:	Re: Meeting with Fairhaven Selectmen

Anne, Thank you. I will keep you advised. Best wishes

Steve

Neighbors are far better acoustic analyzers for determining the quality of their life versus any acoustic instrument left unattended by an expert. -----Stephen E. Ambrose, INCE, Bd.Cert. Acoustics, Environmental Sound and Industrial Noise SE Ambrose '& Associates Tel/Fax: 207.892.6691 15 Great Falls Road Mobile: 207.653.9099 Windham, ME 04062 email: seaa@myfairpoint.net

The contents of this e-mail are intended for the named addressee only. It contains information that may be confidential. Unless you are the named addressee or an authorized designee, you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete and destroy. On 5/24/2013 1:50 PM, Anne Kakley wrote:

Mr. Ambrose:

This will confirm that the Board of Selectmen will meet with you on Monday, June 3, from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. to allow you to present your findings related to wind turbines and sound.

The meeting will take place at the Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street, MA. The meeting room is at the back of the building, directly ahead of the front entrance.

I'll arrange to have a projector ready for your Power Point presentation. If you need a laptop as well, please let me know – otherwise, I'll assume you are bringing your own laptop.

As I mentioned, this is a very tightly-scheduled meeting, so the Board will be grateful to you for limiting your presentation/Q&A session to 30 minutes.

Any literature that you wish to have distributed to the Board should be sent to me by Thursday, May 30, to allow for inclusion in packets.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anne

-----Anne Kakley

Selectmen's Secretary Fairhaven Town Hall 40 Center Street Fairhaven, MA 02719 Tel: 508-979-4023 Fax: 508-979-4079 akakley@Fairhaven-MA.gov

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Disclaimer: This information is believed to be correct but is subject to change and is not warranteed.

http://fairhaven.patriotproperties.com/RecordCard.asp

HARBOR MIST CONDOMINIUM TRUST David W. Mitchell, President 28 Harbor Mist Dr., Fakhaven, MA 02719 774-202-1675; <u>dwm5126@gmall.com</u>

Thursday, May 30, 2013

Senator Mark C. Montigny State House Room 407 Boston, MA 02133

Representative William M. Straus State House Room 134 Boston, MA 02133

Dear Legislators,

Harbor Mist Condominiums is a cluster of 27 homes in 9 buildings in Fairhaven. We are along the bike path between Fairhaven and Mattapoisett near Sconticut Neck Road in your district. We have spent lavishly on landscaping to make the property beautiful and attractive. Many of us enjoy the bike path and natural beauty it gives the area.

Recently we have become aware that NSTAR plans to exercise its right to clear cut from "the soil to the sky" under a utility right of way which goes across our property between our homes and the bike path. This will eliminate many beautiful, valuable, and harmless shrubs - some less than 3 feet tall! Few, if any, appear more than half the height of the lines, such as miniature flowering cherry trees along our drive. It will also change the bike path which is bordered by some trees about as high as the lines - but about 45 feet from it. Truck access to the area under the lines seem ample as there are wide openings thru the trees along the bike path.

We hear that our neighbor, Riccardi's Restaurant, will lose many plantings as well.

We understand that this policy will be exercised in about 105 communities in Massachusetts - perhaps over five years. Locally, we believe that the line in question goes at least from Fairhaven to Wareham.

We speculate that fines and penalties levied against the utilities due to the perception that they were not responsive after recent storms may cause them to react by cutting every plant they can without regard to the negligible threat posed - no balance or application of judgment. Had we been beaten up as they were after the natural disasters, we might be inclined to react similarly.

We note that during future events huge trees in the village center remain near and above lines and will cause outages. Power outages will still occur. We understand that the line near us is a large 115 KV line and is more valuable - serving more people than a small line in town. It is also higher, stronger, on large concrete poles, and already well free of large nearby or overhanging vegetation. The utility has regularly cleared under the line without cutting everything "from soil to sky" as Lucas Tree said they were asked

to do. To our knowledge this line maintained as in the past has had no failures. Some of us despair at the trend to find someone to blame for every inconvenience or event formerly known as "act of God."

Can you help us bring a bit of judgment into this issue?

The timeline is unclear. We learned of this plan about 15 May from an NSTAR contractor. He told us he would write up our concern and we would hear from NSTAR. We have not heard yet. He refused to give us contact information for a responsible person at NSTAR. He said the cut was scheduled to begin about 15 June. We have heard nothing from NSTAR.

We discussed the matter with Jeffery Osuch, Executive Secretary to Fairhaven's Board of Selectmen, who learned that we are to expect to be contacted by another NSTAR contractor soon. Seems we may not get the opportunity to talk with NSTAR at all

Your timely investigation or intervention in this matter would be appreciated by residents of Harbor Mist, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and the other 105 Massachusetts communities whose NSTAR line easement may be clear cut in excess of prior years or, we have been told, of other utilities at present.

We do not dispute the need for prompt repair of damaged power distribution equipment to get power to the population or NSTAR's right to maintain its easement. We are sad and frustrated at the proposed unnecessary destruction of valuable and beautiful small landscaping to comply with a policy - without apparent exercise of judgment.

Please contact me if I can be any help in resolving this matter cooperatively.

Yours truly,

David W. Mitchell, President Harbor Mist Condominium Association

cc: Jeff Osuch - Town of Fairhaven William Hayes - NSTAR (US Mail only, no email address available)

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