

# MARION ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

24 Jan 11

1. The meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Marion Music Hall.
2. Marion meeting attendees:

David Pierce	Norman Hills
Eunice Manduca	Bill Saltonstall
Rob Fisher	
3. Others present: see attached list
4. The minutes from 22 Nov 10 as amended were approved.
5. Wind power discussions - the majority of the meeting was given over providing the attendees an opportunity to voice their concerns and questions with respect to a turbine at Great Hill:
  - David Pierce
    - There is no program of record at this time, there is no rush to install a turbine in the immediate future. We have been collecting data at this site to determine feasibility. Currently waiting for final version of Feasibility Study that we expect will indicate that this is a good site and would provide the Town the ability to pay for all its electrical costs plus additional income.
    - We know that additional studies will be necessary, one is an Acoustical Study. The Town has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to do this study, bids are due soon.
    - To date, no Town funds have been expended. We expect that the Acoustic Study will be funded by remaining funds from the Feasibility Study accomplished by Massachusetts Clean Energy.
    - The site is on private property. The Town and Great Hill Trust, LLC have been working together. A six person Committee has been established between the Town and Great Hill Trust, LLC to address the way forward based on the positive outcome of the Feasibility Study.
    - We anticipate conducting public outreach and education, starting with a Wind 101 presentation. Dates have not yet been established.
  - Norm Hills
    - Asked how many of audience had visited a wind turbine, approximately 10 raised their hands
    - Asked how many had read the draft Feasibility Study; approximately 10 raised their hands.
  - Kitt Sawitsky
    - Asked how many of the Committee had talked to residents in Falmouth that complained; none
    - Expressed respect for the Committee's mission

- Feels that the Committee is ignoring what is happening in other towns, Falmouth and Barnstable. That the Committee is not open minded about potential downsides.
- A power plant in a residential area is a mistake
- Piney Point residents are afraid that the turbine would create noise that will affect their quality of life.
  - David Pierce noted that the Regional meetings we have bring people from the surrounding communities that have or are planning to install wind turbines and touch on these items.
- Scott Durkee
  - Acoustic and Flicker studies are the most important.
  - If the acoustic and flicker studies do not find these characteristics are a serious nuisance to nearby houses, then we should move on to consider the economics of the project
- Jeanie Holmes
  - Not sure what is happening with respect to the wind turbine, we need to share information
  - Concerned with potential health impacts
- Lora Sharp
  - Questioned how high it would be
    - Answer: Approximately 410ft, photo simulation passed around
  - What time frame are we talking about
    - Answer: Fluid still, possibly address at Spring Town Meeting 2012
- Alan Ditchfield
  - He hasn't read the Feasibility Study or the spread sheet, is it possible to put on Town web site?
    - Answer: yes (subsequently accomplished)
  - Concerned with the payback, business objective of the Committee
  - Doesn't want to subsidize Rochester cost of ORR
- Jonathan Green
  - Questioned how long it would take to collect the decommissioning fund
    - Bill Saltonstall noted that the current spreadsheet does not include that cost but it is required and could possibly be collected in 3 years
- Sue Maxwell Lewis
  - Concerned with access due to the condition of the road and need for possible permits
    - Bill Saltonstall noted that the use of helicopters had been investigated but that they cannot lift the weights required
- Gill McManus
  - He is in Marion for quiet, beauty
  - 40 story structure doesn't preserve that concept, square peg in round hole
- Bob Nau
  - Concerned with health issue and life style, respect for traditional values
  - Talked to real estate person (Neal Balboni) for an estimate of value degradation and was told 25-30% but with no data to support it. He will be first in line to seek restitution

- Believes that installation would result in shift of tax burden
- Kathy Reed
  - Health care background,
  - She has been reading studies from around the world and believes there are health concerns
- Rico Ferrari
  - Questioned how Committee members are appointed
    - Answer: David Pierce said we were volunteers, reappointed each year by the Selectmen
  - Wanted to know the process to remove or replace members
    - Answer: David Pierce reiterated that the Selectmen control the members, there is no stated number of Committee members
- Pam Norweb
  - She has been reading about health issues and wanted to know who is responsible for potential health issues
  - She noted that there is always legal recourse
- Andy Kotsatos
  - Applauded the Board of Selectmen for investigating this option
  - Thanked the Stone family for providing the site to investigate
  - Concerned that there is a rush to judgment without completing the investigations needed, would be a mistake to cut of the investigation
  - He supports the idea and believes that it is premature to think about property loss, health concern
- John O'Leary
  - How do we get the answers?
    - David Pierce – we need to accomplish the necessary studies
    - Bill Saltonstall – don't pretend that the Feasibility Study is the complete answer, we know that more is required. The Stone family has requested more details with respect to acoustics and flicker. So far we haven't spent any Town money, we may need to request money to complete all the studies required, knowing that we may replace some or all of it with Grant money.
- Ted North
  - How much will the Town be asked for?
    - Bill Saltonstall – not clear at this time but we do know that competitive Grants have been awarded up to \$600K.
- Gill McManus
  - Has the Committee and the Stone family agreed to this
    - Bill Saltonstall – We might ask for an appropriation to pay for further site studies, engineering, and bid documents, but if we are able to negotiate a satisfactory lease agreement with Great Hill the MA CEC might offer a \$400k-\$500K grant to cover these expenses
- Mary Gumlak
  - She would like Town Counsel opinion on the health issues before a Town vote

- John Henry – noted that there is a lot that will happen before Town vote, including the fact that the Town is not normally in the power generating business
  - How will a wind turbine be affected by a hurricane
    - Norm Hills – they self feather at a certain speed so that rotation stops, they are designed to withstand 180 mile per hour wind
  - Has the Committee looked at other energy sources at Great Hill
    - David Pierce – no
- Steve Kokkins
  - Complemented the Stone family for their stewardship and hope it continues
  - Professional Engineer for 40 years
  - In his opinion there are a lot of variables and a lot of experts, the studies need open discussion
  - Subsidies are important in financial analysis, if they go away the answers change
    - Bill Saltonstall – can't compare to Cape Wind which is forced to sell power at a high price, we are under net metering and get full credit at retail price
  - He believes that large scale application of wind makes sense, individual power makes less sense
  - Economic analysis result may not be value of national treasure
  - Wind turbine is a visual distraction
  - 2000HP generator should not be in residential area
- Kitt Sawitsky
  - Asked the Committee members if we believe there is a property value question
    - General response is that we don't know. David Pierce noted that in Dartmouth there is an apparent property value increase so is skeptical.
  - He is concerned with noise, why didn't he see a copy of the Acoustic study RFP?
- David Briggs
  - Concerned with the electrical distribution cabling
    - Bill Saltonstall – will be under ground wiring to the interconnect on Delano Rd. The Feasibility Study indicates that the existing wiring is satisfactory. We will need an Interconnect Study from NSTAR.
- Heather Sawitsky
  - Have read the Feasibility Study and it talks about a 38% capacity factor and calls it modest.
    - Bill Saltonstall – the wind does not blow all the time and there are other reductions due to mechanical efficiencies; however this is one of the highest capacity factors of all the local installations.
  - Did the Committee look for other sites
    - Bill Saltonstall – we studied ORR for two years but the results were marginal as the site is too far from the bay, a Feasibility Study was not authorized
  - What about at Kittansett Club?
- Unidentified female
  - What about other sites in Mattapoissett and Rochester

- Bill Saltonstall – The ORR site was a joint effort with Mattapoissett and Rochester. Rochester does not have any site with adequate wind resources.
- Jim Fogarty
  - Believes Committee committed to effort
  - He addressed John Henry directly as a Selectman; believes concerns are being dismissed, not taken seriously
    - David Pierce – noted that studies still need to be accomplished to get answers. Everyone is entitled to their opinion.
- Ted North
  - Wanted to know if Spring Town meeting would be asked for funds
    - Bill Saltonstall – may ask for minor funds, \$15-\$20K to complete the Acoustic and Flicker studies; have no article yet
    - David Pierce – questioned when warrants are due. John Henry responded in mid-March
- Eunice Manduca
  - There are an awful lot of questions to be answered, we are not rushing into anything
- Jonathan Green
  - There are many issues to be resolved, it is not practical to get an answer from the Stone family until there is clearer definition of the project.
  - Suggested having the Great Hill Turbine committee draft and submit to the family a non-binding proposal addressing certain details:
    - Noise, health issues
    - Flashing light
    - Transformer structure
    - Access road (permanent or temporary)
    - Mechanics of the lease
- Heather Sawitsky
  - Some people have come long distance for the meeting
  - What is the sense with respect to property value degradation
    - General – still don't know
- Bill Saltonstall
  - He is planning three trips to Falmouth, the first this coming weekend, and would like to take some of the audience. If you are interested contact him.
- John Henry
  - Selectmen have been included so far, they will continue to listen
  - Urged attendees to focus on legitimate issues
  - There are obvious financial issues with respect to studies
  - No negatives have been raised before this

#### 6. Other alternative energy items

- Margie Baldwin was present to show the Committee one of the presentations from Bioneering. Unfortunately the computer and projector would not communicate. The subject was being open to unique solutions.

7. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

8. The meeting schedule for 2011 will continue to meet at 7PM on the fourth Monday of each month at the Music Hall. Next year's meeting schedule was approved: 28 Feb, 28 Mar, 25 Apr, 22 May, 27 Jun, 25 Jul, 22 Aug, 26 Sep, 24 Oct, 28 Nov.

Respectfully,  
<signed 28 Mar 2011>

Norman A. Hills, secretary

ATTENDEES  
24 JAN 2011

NAME	ADDRESS
Dennis Pucello	61 Hathaway Pond Circle, Rochester
Heather Sawitsky	75 Holly Road
Kitt Sawitsky	75 Holly Road
Peter Francis	107 Cove Circle
Jen Francis	107 Cove Circle
Joyce Patten	83 Holly Road
Jami Pyle	37 Piney Point Road
David Hooke	290 Delano Road
Peggy Cafarella	40 Holly Road
Chris Makepeace	77 Piney Point Road
Kathlen Reed	6 Register Road
Janet Keeler	54 Piney Point Road
David Briggs	375 Delano Road
Don Nail(?)	339 Pond Road
John O'Leary	81 Cove Circle
Tim Stone	Great Hill
Cathy Stone	Great Hill
Margot Stone	55 Main Street
Lora Sharpe	58 Holly Road
Ellen Stone	84 Front Street
J. Walter Freiberg	8 Crossneck Road
John Henry	Front Street
Scott Durkee	14 West Street
Robert Nau	53 Piney Point Road
G. McManus	13 Holly Road
D. Bush	16 Bay Road
Joane Mahoney	28 Landing Road
Stephen Kokkins	72 Cove Circle
Jonathan B. Green	Great Hill
Corinne Allard	7 Cove Circle
Carol Sanz	110 Front Street
Reiser	43 Piney Point Road
Ted North	62 Cove Circle
Sharlie Suddeth	528 Point Road
Richard D. Lewis	26 Delano Road
Jeanie Holmes	930 Piney Point Road/25 Pleasant Street
Susan Maxwell Lewis	26 Delano Road
Joan Healy	4 Fraser Way
Adrienne Noble	44 Register Road
Madeline Cooke	208 Converse Road
Mark Webster	25 Pleasant Street

Laura Pedulli	Wanderer
Alan Ditchfield	8 Cove Circle
Chris Reagle	The Sentinel
George Nugent	14 Register Road
Leon Navickas	123 Cove Circle
Andy Kotsatos	196 Point Road