

Wind Energy Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Present: Myles Burke; John Charbonneau; Mike Pol; Mike Sciaraffa; Mike McCahill

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mike Pol.

II. Election of Chairperson and Clerk

After discussion, a motion was made by John Charbonneau to elect Mike Pol as Chair of the Task Force. Mike Sciaraffa seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of three in favor, zero opposed and zero abstained (3-0-0)

A motion was made by Mike Sciaraffa to elect John Charbonneau as Clerk of the Task Force. Mike Pol seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of three in favor, zero opposed and zero abstained (3-0-0).

III. Accept Minutes of July 14, 2011 Meeting

After discussion, John Charbonneau made a motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2011, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mike Sciaraffa and it passed by a vote of two in favor, zero opposed and zero abstained (2-0-0).

IV. Set Future Dates and Time to Meet

The group discussed various options for dates and times to meet. Due to conflicting meeting schedules for members, it was decided that the group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 119 of the Multi-Service Center.

V. General Discussion of Goals and Objectives

There was a discussion of commercial versus residential turbine regulation and whether or not a potential wind turbine by-law should address both. There was then a discussion of whether a by-law would regulate marine-scale turbines. It was decided that the group would analyze the impacts of wind turbines by discussing general issues and then more specific issues within each category. The first category discussed was health issues, with shadow flicker, noise and low-level frequency as specific items. The second category was public safety, with decommissioning, ice throw and malfunction as specific items. The third category was environmental, with migration patterns, leaking and clearing as specific items. The fourth category was fiscal, with property values, cost effectiveness and tax benefits as specific items. The final category was aesthetic, with views and intimidation as specific items. The group will begin researching these aspects of wind turbines and begin discussion at the next meeting.


VI. Citizen Participation/Public Comment

Resident Barry Cosgrove was in attendance and discussed various aspects of wind turbines that he has learned through research. He talked about the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's noise standards being insufficient, the fact that wind turbines are never built without government subsidies because they are not cost effective otherwise and how bats are acutely impacted by the low level frequency the is emitted. This cause bats to actually implode from the inside and bats are valuable to the environment because they feed on small insects that are considered to be pests. He recommended that the group visit the website entitled, www.windwatch.com and that they also visit the website of Thomas Kuntz from Boston University, who studied the impact of wind turbines on bats. He the discussed how wind energy won't influence gas prices and that the cost of wind energy is actually approximately 19% higher than other sources of energy and that they take up more space than other energy sources.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

John Charbonneau made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Mike Sciaraffa seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of four in favor, zero opposed and zero abstained (4-0-0). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Charbonneau
Clerk

