

Wellfleet Energy Committee Meeting, Tuesday, December 17, 2009,
4 pm at Town Hall

Present: Jim Sexton, Gooz Draz, Paul Banner, Peter Stewart, Paul
Weber, Geof Karlson, John Morrisey (Finance Committee liaison)

Absent: Kathy Hubby, Bill Sullivan, Mike May

Public: Dennis O'Connell, Marilyn Miller, Jim Rogers, Wayne
Clough, Ted Thomas

Gooz Draz called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the 12/1/09 meeting were
approved, with two minor modifications suggested by Draz. Karlson
will amend and forward to Rex Peterson.

The draft response to Mr. Eric Bibler's e-mail correspondence of
11/24/09 was discussed. It was moved and approved by a vote of 5 –
1 (Banner voting no) to send the response. Marilyn Miller requested a
copy. The committee agreed to e-mail her a copy also. Banner, in
explaining his dissent, stated that answering the questions via a
“Frequently Asked Questions” document available to the public as a
whole was a more appropriate method of addressing such questions.

Draz advised of two recent additional pending e-mail queries, one
from Melinda Krasting and Pamela Whittemore. It was decided that
Draz would contact the two individuals to indicate that the WEC was
preparing responses, that would be reviewed and informally approved
of by the members before our next scheduled meeting (when they
would be formally approved of) and then sent to them. Draz and
Karlson agreed to coordinate on preparation of these draft responses.

Mr. Wayne Clough (present) asked about notification of the “balloon
test” and advance notice of the locations (six in number) to be
examined during the test. Draz said the exact location of the six sites
had not yet been chosen, and that Draz would notify those who had
expressed interest in notification, as well as make this known to the
local public as can be reasonably done on short notice. Draz said that

unofficial minutes 12.17.09 to be approved

most likely there would be 3 sites along Ocean View Drive and 3 in other locations.

Karlson gave an overview of the results of the “informational hearing” on 12/15/09 in Boston organized by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for the benefit of stakeholders in understanding the methodology and rules for assignment of rate classifications for new distributed generation (i.e., net-metered) facilities. He noted that there are three commercial/industrial rate classes and that the reimbursement rate for these range from 13.95 cents / kWh (“G-1” rate) down to about 11.5 cents / kWh (“G-3” rate). Karlson stated that the actual rate is assigned by NSTAR depending on the electrical characteristics of the facility. The Committee decided to recommend to the Town Administrator to move forward immediately to request from NSTAR a determination of the initial rate class that would be assigned to the proposed turbine facility, per the interconnection application specifications.

Draz reminded all members to complete the mandatory State Ethics Commission training.

Under “Other Business”, several items were presented, as described below:

Jim Sexton announced the completion of the Acoustic Study by Tech Environmental for a single turbine located at so-called “site #2”. The study results for a single turbine show significantly less acoustic impact in terms of decibels than the three-turbine configuration. Karlson noted that the results appear to approximate the more-stringent sound requirements suggested by some commenters. Draz noted that he was in touch with the Vinalhaven Project, a recent three turbine project in Maine, which Vinalhaven area press published some articles on both the community excitement of the project as well as on the acoustic impact on some residents. Karlson noted that in the three newspaper articles available on this project, only one mentions the actual characteristics of the facility and the distance to the nearest house, and in that one it was stated that “for houses at ½ mile or greater, there seems to be no problems except in specific cases”. Karlson also noted that the Newburyport turbine was probably sited much closer to residences than the proposed Wellfleet facility.

Karlson emphasized that to compare other facilities to Wellfleet, the location of residences must be known versus the wind turbine. Banner indicated he thought the effect of topography should be looked at – as the results in the report indicate “worst case” conditions – including flat topography and frozen winter ground.

Draz read the Acoustic Study executive summary for the benefit of the audience, and read the information of who the preparing consultant was on the request of Rogers. Draz also mentioned how this report took into account an analysis of any potential low frequency issue, which was not required of us but the Committee felt was necessary.

Draz stated that the Committee plans to perform further due diligence relating to potential acoustic impact by visiting other single turbine facilities of similar size to better ascertain what such a turbine sounds like in person.

A motion to release the Acoustic report and post on the Town web site was passed unanimously.

Draz indicated that he would continue working on the FAQ. Karlson and Sexton will assist in completing a timeline and list of public presentations.

Draz noted that the the Open Space Committee had forwarded to us O’Connell’s request to them to consider this proposal’s land use as part of their area of purview. The Committee agreed to send the Open Space Comm. a Status Report and then arrange to meet with them.

Stewart will contact Rex Peterson about preparing a document that can be used to solicit quotes for environmental assessment and monitoring support.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2010

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

unofficial minutes 12.17.09 to be approved

Geof Karlson