

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

NOVEMBER 17, 2011
DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: John Kieley, Mary Beth Ayvazian, Randy Martin, Rose Lowry, Allan Pickman, and Richard Whitcomb

Call to order by Pickman at 7:02 p.m.

As the projector needed for the wind energy forum had not yet arrived at the Town Hall, Pickman suggested the board deal with other items on the agenda until its arrival.

Whiting property deed discrepancy: Pickman read a portion of a deed for property in Temple that contained a restrictive clause referencing the town of Warner. He explained that a written release to counteract the erroneous language had been prepared by attorney Richard Peppe, and the Temple Planning Board was being asked to sign the release. Pickman said he had discussed the document with Dwight Sowerby, town counsel for the town of Temple, and that Sowerby had also spoken to Peppe. A revised document was created which Sowerby indicated he was comfortable having the board sign. Kieley moved to approve the board signing the release document, second by Ayvazian, and so voted unanimously. Two copies were signed by the individual board members in attendance. Attorney Peppe thanked the board for its courtesy.

Approval of minutes: Move by Kieley to accept the minutes of 11/02/11 as written, second by Lowry, and so voted.

Public forum on Large Wind Energy Systems: At 7:10 p.m. Pickman opened the public forum, and Lowry and Ayvazian provided a PowerPoint presentation with verbal commentary. Approximately 30 audience members were in attendance. Adam Cohen, a representative of Pioneer Green Energy, was available to address questions and concerns. Lowry explained the catalyst for holding the forum was a proposal for a wind farm project in the neighboring town of New Ipswich. There is a possibility the project might be extended into Temple in the region of Kidder Mountain. Lowry stated the town now needs to determine the best way to approach large scale wind energy. She said the Planning Board is currently working to draft a zoning ordinance to regulate commercial wind farms, and residents would have a chance to vote on accepting the ordinance in March. Pickman told the audience the board itself is still in the learning and information gathering stages. It was also noted that several board members had recently visited a wind farm in Lempster.

As the presentation continued, many questions were raised and dialogue ensued between board members and residents. Topics included the following:

Town of Antrim – current situation with a wind farm proposal and attempt to develop a zoning ordinance; Town of Lempster – details of board members trip to visit the existing wind farm and personal impressions; Town of New Ipswich – location of proposed towers and visual impact in Temple; importance of existing electrical transmission line; protection of rural character, property values, public health and safety, and environment; turbine size, height, blade speed, and noise generation; disruption during construction phase; tax implications for towns; sale and distribution of power; impact on raptor migration and wildlife; road access and maintenance; model ordinance components; state and/or federal regulations and involvement; current status of Pioneer Green plan.

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

NOVEMBER 17, 2011
DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Various questions posed by audience members included:

- impact on Temple roads
- exact location of proposed towers in Temple
- when can state step in
- size of setbacks
- possible 'view tax' repercussions
- use of underground power lines
- would access road be private or open
- affect in area of Wapack trail
- history of Pioneer Green Energy
- need for building or substation
- types of turbines
- noise issues
- involvement of Public Utilities Commission
- increased revenue for town
- rebate or discount on power
- age (longevity) of project
- need for regional impact study
- Conservation Commission participation
- option for town to refuse

With the presentation being concluded, Lowry indicated the board's next step is to research other town's ordinances, and draft an ordinance that is tailored to Temple's needs. She urged residents to attend Planning Board meetings to provide input and ask questions. She advised there would be two public hearings scheduled to introduce and discuss the proposed ordinance. Lowry then asked for a quick show of hands in response to 1) being anti- zoning ordinance, 2) placing restrictions on Temple towers, and 3) encouraging alternative energy in town. She thanked the audience for attending and participating.

The wind energy forum ended at 8:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry