

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

JANUARY 16, 2012
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

Call to order by Pickman at 6:38 p.m.

Large Wind Energy System (LWES) ordinance: Kieley and Lowry provided a recap of their attendance at a recent New Ipswich Planning Board meeting. This was the final public hearing on modifications to the existing New Ipswich LWES ordinance. After discussion, the vote of the New Ipswich Planning Board was unanimous in support of the changes to the ordinance. A written summary of notes taken at the New Ipswich meeting by Lowry and Kieley was provided to Temple Planning Board members (copy attached). Board members reviewed the notes and discussed the following:

- Top priority is protection of residents' health and property values
- Example of Lempster and how a wind farm as a commercial use is taxed
- How to determine and mandate an acceptable level of audible vs. inaudible (infrasound) noise
- Specific controls within an LWES ordinance does not mean a wind farm cannot be constructed, just that it must meet certain levels

The board briefly discussed management of shadow flicker; agreed to keep the 33dBa limit in the ordinance; timing of the first and second public hearings on the LWES ordinance; format of the PowerPoint presentation for the first hearing; how to get people to understand that an LWES ordinance is needed to protect the town; and sending out a mailer before the second hearing. Protection of historical areas was brought up. Pickman responded that they would need to be mapped and quantified. Kieley suggested adding language that historical resources are very important to Temple, and must be protected during construction and after. Pickman cautioned that some of these historical areas are located on property of participating landowners, and if the ordinance is too stringent it could be considered a 'taking'. Kieley suggested the possibility of requesting setbacks. Also brought up was the need to minimize the impact of construction on stonewalls. Kieley volunteered to draft the new language for protecting historical resources.

The ongoing situation in the town of Antrim was discussed with regard to taxation of wind farms providing revenue to the town. Kieley stated that it seems Antrim was given misinformation, and is now struggling with how to discern true tax implications. It was noted there is a generalized misconception that the town will receive a financial windfall. A suggestion was made to get the Temple Board of Selectmen involved with this aspect now rather than later. There was brief discussion of the need to develop a new LWES application form and discern an application fee structure.

Move to adjourn by Kieley, second by Ayvazian, and so voted unanimously at 7:29:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry