

MEETING MINUTES

Union Large Wind Energy System Ordinance Study Committee September 15, 2007 8:00 a.m. at Village Square Restaurant

Members Present: Tom Alisankus (Chair), Jim Bembinster, Cathy Bembinster, Marion Tong, Scott McElroy, Mike Exum, Mike Leeder, Renee Exum (recording secretary).

Members Absent: Sue Pestor

Public Present: Doug Zweizig

Work done to date: Cathy Bembinster summarized the extensive research on large wind energy systems that she, Jim Bembinster and Scott McElroy have compiled so far. Cathy handed out folders of research materials for the committee to review. Cathy and Scott contacted an audiologist to obtain information related to health & safety noise issues connected to wind turbines. Multiple model ordinances, from around the state and country have also been collected and can be used as examples for our work. The Bembinsters and Scott McElroy have compiled a significant amount of research on wind turbines and they have sorted through the research to find valid information that is supported with clinical and scientific data.

The Bembinsters traveled to wind farms in Paw Paw and Mendota IL. They suggest a field trip back to the Mendota and Paw Paw wind farms to conduct further investigation and speak with neighbors and landowners. Tom Alisankus thanked Scott and the Bembinsters for their efforts.

Committee Charge and Goals: The committee reviewed the requirements of Wis. Stat. 66.0401 and the Town Board's charge to the committee. The Committee discussed its goals and objectives and agreed that its goal is to provide a draft ordinance to the Plan Commission with rationale/supporting documentation for standards. Cathy has compiled a folder of ordinances drafted/adopted, as well as model ordinances. The Committee will review them to create a base model ordinance to start from.

Process for soliciting input: The Committee then discussed a process for obtaining input from stakeholders such as the wind industry, citizens, landowners and others. Input solicited would be related to health & safety issues and would need to be supported by scientific research documentation. Discussion occurred as to whether to solicit comments by letter, questionnaire or a subcommittee. Mike L. suggested that the committee solicit information from both sides of the issue. Mike E. felt it was important not to assume we know who all the stakeholders are and therefore we might also want to public post our solicitation thereby reaching out to interested stakeholders the Committee may not have identified in its mailing. Jim and Marion suggested soliciting comments and position data from Renew WI.

Future Meetings: The Committee will meet on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. until further notice. The next meeting will be Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 7:00 a.m. at the Village Square Restaurant. Public Notice for the September 22 meeting will be posted at the Library, Piggly Wiggly, Town of Union website, Worthington and Landmark.

The Committee should ask the Plan Commission at the next Plan Commission meeting what protocol they want to follow for being copied on communications. Doug Z. suggested that the Committee request a budget from the Town Board to cover copy & mailing expenses.

Agenda for next meeting:

- 1) Determine process for soliciting comments from stakeholders – subcommittee vs. questionnaire.
- 2) Identify issues that we want to cover in the ordinance
- 3) Review suggested model ordinances

Official Record: Renee will contact the Eager Free Public Library to set up a public document repository and official record for the Committee's research.

List of research materials compiled by Cathy Bembinster to be submitted to the library for the official record repository:

1. Industrial Wind Turbines – Accumulated reports concerning public health and safety
2. Wind Energy System Ordinances (Cherry Valley NY, Malone NY, Manitowoc County WI, Otsego County MI, Shawano County WI, White River MI, Trempealeau County WI, Stockbridge Township WI)
3. Catherine M. Lawton Letters regarding Town of Addison proposed wind farm
4. Vibroacoustic Disease information
5. Daniel D'Entremont - Noise assessment regarding Nova Scotia wind farm
6. Wind Turbine Accident Compilation
7. Report from the Bethany Wind Turbine Study Committee
8. Dr. Nina Pierpont and Wind Turbine Syndrome
9. Clinical Literature supporting Wind Turbine Syndrome
10. Permitting Setbacks for Wind Turbines in California
11. Testimonials

Renee Exum
Committee Recording Secretary