

Final copy for Board approval. Minor PW changes.

Minutes
Town of Waldoboro Planning Board
Public Hearing and Workshop on Land Use Ordinance Amendment
Small Wind Energy Systems
September 10, 2009

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by chairman Chuck Campbell at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Carlo Bianchi, Chuck Flint, Jody Perry, and Abden Simmons. Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Wright was present. There was no audience except reporter John Maguire from the Lincoln County News.

1. Citizen Comments on Items not on Agenda (none)
2. Description of Proposed Standards regarding Small Wind Energy Systems

Code Enforcement Officer Wright summarized the provisions of the proposed new standards for regulation of small wind energy systems. The public hearing was recorded and will be shown on local TV. The text of the proposed amendment has been posted on the Town web site and available at the Town Office.

Wright said that without the proposed amendment, it would not be feasible to install a small wind energy system in Waldoboro because of height restrictions. The proposed language would allow tower heights of 80 feet on lots of one acre or less, and 90 feet on land over one acre. A “small” wind energy system is defined as one with a rated capacity of not to exceed 100 kilowatts. These systems are intended primarily for personal use to provide electricity for a home, farm, or small business, not to provide energy to the regional grid or be part of a large wind farm. The proposed ordinance language addresses prior notice to abutters, safety, visual impact, noise, setbacks from property lines, etc. There is provision for requiring removal of an unsafe or non-functional wind energy system. Small wind energy systems are prohibited in the Historic Village District.

3. Open Legislative Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance Amendment

Chairman Campbell opened a formal public hearing at 7:12 p.m. Wright read written comments received from Cindy McIntyre of Washington Road. Recently in another town she was working close to a wind energy tower. It made a constant squeaking noise. She believes that it harms the rural atmosphere of a place to have this kind of constant noise. She would prefer to see solar energy systems promoted.

There being no other comments, Campbell adjourned the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

4. Vote to Submit Specific Performance Standards for Small Wind Energy Systems to Selectmen for Town Meeting Vote as Amendment to Land Use Ordinance Article 5

Wright will make several minor grammatical and punctuation corrections to the draft text. On motion of Simmons/Flint, the Planning Board voted 5 – 0 to send the proposed performance

standards for small wind energy systems to the Selectmen for consideration to add to the warrant for vote by townspeople. The next election is November 3.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Charles Campbell, Chairman

Carlo P. Bianchi

Charles Flint

Submitted by:

Jonathan Perry

Susan S. R. Alexander

Abden Simmons

WALDOBORO PLANNING BOARD