

Moretown Planning Commission Minutes

Date: June 16, 2008

PC Attendees: Steve Sharp, Steve Robbins, Don LaRocca, Dan Lynch

Guests: Scott Bauhman, Moretown resident

Absent: Gene Kaslow

Start Time: 5:10 PM

Meeting Minutes:

1. Steve R. submitted copy of Vermont Regional Plan for information
2. Wind Tower discussion with Scott B.
 - A. Scott B. who has built a one kilowatt wind turbine on his property reviewed his experience.
 - Located on Route 2 one quarter mile northwest of landfill
 - Tower is 130 feet from Route 2 and slightly visible
 - One kilowatt peak power with a southwest wind
 - Tower is a single pole six guide wire mounted generator approximately 100 feet high and is mounted on a concrete pad.
 - Tower was erected without wind testing due to the cost of such evaluation.
 - Scott did work himself to cut costs. Estimated cost was approximately \$6000.
 - Scott asked for a DRB variance to go beyond the zoning restriction of 50 feet. DRB had no issues with variance.
 - Neighbors were consulted prior to installation.
 - B. General questions on changing Town Plan and zoning to better accommodate wind tower development. Discussed the following:
 - Height for residential turbines should encompass up to 30 foot diameter blades, (typically 10 kilowatt turbines). It should be mounted 30 feet above the tree line to the lowest point of blade rotation. Maximum suggested height therefore would be 150 feet (assuming typical tree canopy height of 70-80 feet) for a permitted wind turbine.
 - A conditional use permit could possibly apply to higher or larger machines but more detailed use criterion need to be addressed.
 - Noise for these small turbines does not appear to be an issue beyond the 55 db zoning requirement. Larger turbines may present an issue.
 - Scott is net metering and received a Certificate of Public Good which possibly bypasses local oversight. Scott had no problem getting CPG. PC needs to clarify whether CPG or local ordinances take precedence.
 - Any existing federal and state rebate structure does not benefit do it yourself homeowners. Any rebates go directly to contractor installation costs.
 - Consideration must be given to how many turbines are located on one property as a permitted use.
 - Concluded conversations with Scott with an open invitation for an onsite visit.
 - C. The next step is to create an outline for permitted wind turbine installations. Dan L. will draft an outline for the next meeting.
3. Reviewed minutes of May 19, 2008. Motion to approve Dan L., seconded Don L. Approved by all. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Monday, July 7, 2008.

*Minutes recorded by Don LaRocca