

Town of Fort Fairfield
Wind Energy Technical Review Committee
Council Chambers
Monday, November 10, 2014
6:00 P.M.

Members: Dick Langley, Carl Young, Jim Everett, Brent Churchill, Todd Maynard, Barbara Hayslett, Heather Cassidy, John Herold, Tony Levesque, David McCrea, Michael Bosse, Tim Goff and Phil Christensen.

- I. Introductions – The meeting began by everyone introducing themselves.
- II. Mandate – Mike began by thanking everyone for coming. This is an informal get together to decide how we want to approach this issue that we have before us. We were formed when the council introduced a Moratorium Ordinance a few meetings ago. In that motion to introduce the council moved to establish a Technical Review Committee. That is why we are all here for tonight. There are several subjects that we will need to review, research that needs to be done.

David McCrea – Just so you know where your names came from, Mike, Tony and I took the voter list, we each made our own list than look at these grouping of names that we had in common. David went on to say that one thing he has noticed by being on the Council is that no matter what you do there are going to be people out there that will think you are up to something. One of the things that I would caution all is that as a committee we need to do what we can to be a good member, and sometimes there will be things discussed here that don't need to see the light of day until a decision is made and it has been explored. When we get all done we will come up with something that we can all believe in and can all believe in and promote to the community and there still will be people that will say, "Why did you sell us out like that".

Having said that I don't know what that means to you but it means a lot to me and I needed to throw it out there as a caution because doing the very best you can there is going to be someone out there that's going to get under your skin and say "this is what you were up to".

- III. Council Established Moratorium Review - A copy of the Moratorium Ordinance was given to all the members.
- IV. Reports
 - A. Select Chairperson – Mike – Even though Mike was asked to establish this committee, he didn't want to self-appoint himself as committee chair. The process needs to be clean and pure and above reproach. So the selections need to come from this committee. Mike suggested Dick Langley, his vocation helps him with his avocation I think he would be a very good moderator for this group.

Tony – Stated that he feels he is Ex Officio in this group, he is here for a resource only and he will never voice his opinion or vote on anything. I don't want for any reason that I have a bias or a conflict of interest.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the selection of Dick Langley as Chairman for the Wind Energy Technical Review Committee.
Second: Carl Young

Mike mentioned to Dick that the staff, Tony, Becky, Tim and himself are here at his disposal to help do any clerk duties.

- B. Meeting Frequency / Attendance – Mike - assuming that there will be sub-committees appointed on various topics, there are a lot of topics. Normally people volunteer to serve on a committee and that committee meets and discusses what the subject is then reports back to the overall committee. Target dead line is April 15th, which is the expiration of the six month moratorium and this deadline can be extended.

Dick – So the one questions that we have is how hard and interested people want to work. But if you're not having meetings it is easy to drift, spend two or three weeks doing nothing. Do we want to meet once a month?

Mike – By the enormity of the subject matter, I thought we should meet a couple times a month.

John –There was another idea floating around that instead of having the council pass an ordinance that we would go to a referendum vote. That would be a council decision, but than that would require setting up an election.

David – In five months or so this committee will know what it wants to recommend to the Council, either a referendum or an ordinance.

Brent – Speaking of time frame am I correct in saying that there is no entity out there that needs an answer on this, there is no push to get this discussion done quickly.

David – even if there were we can't do anything for six months because of the moratorium.

Mike – There are no proposals out there.

Tony – Just to get their DEP site approval would take up to six months.

Mike - If it were a special election there would be extra cost to the town, if it is at the November election it would be beyond the deadline is April 15th. The council has had a discussion as to whether or not we even needed a moratorium, couldn't they just say that we would not allow any development in Fort Fairfield without a moratorium. Council is committed to see this process through whether there is a moratorium or not. Again there are no proposals on the table, there is just talk right now.

After a brief discussion it was decided that the committee would meet again on November 17th at 6 PM here in the council Chambers, then every other Monday after that.

Carl – What is the nature of our committee, what are we expecting to accomplish. Are we supposed to provide a report and recommendations or are we drafting an ordinance?

Mike – In the research I have done there is one committee that stands out, it is Oakfield,

Maine. If you go to their web site, there are several documents, this is a good model to follow, my intent is to follow their process. It is a good example, it gives us a starting point for tonight. As far as whether we are going to draft an ordinance, I don't know if we can decide that tonight. There is a lot more research that needs to be done.

Carl – Are we going to invite the public to listen?

Mike – This committee was established by a motion by the council, usually when there is a council action it is public, so this meeting would be public in nature and advertised as such. This committee needs to establish how we would like to receive input, we will be setting up on our web site a place to receive input.

- C. Procedure – Dick – we probably should encourage people to attend, listen and limit them to comments and no questions. we should be advertising the meetings.

Tony - this committee was established by the council, we have no different rights than they would have. They will review and consider the drafts of an ordinance and I think all needs to be public.

Dick – We have a model ordinance from the State of Maine, it is going to save us a lot of work. This committee will put it in final form and recommend it to the council, if we can't do that then the council can take recommendation and make their own. I think we can accomplish something.

John – What we don't want is to have a continuation of the Public Hearings that we had and that's not our purpose. We don't want to stand in the way of any legal business that wants to do business here in Fort Fairfield, but we want to set guidelines.

Following a brief discussion it was decided to post the agenda just as the Council meetings are posted, at the two banks and here at the town office. Inviting the public to attend and listen allotting approximately five minutes per person to talk if they want after the regular meeting has finished.

- D. Committees / Subcommittees-

Tony - We don't really need sub-committees, we can work on each topic as a group a section at a time. Assign a topic that will be discussed at the next meeting.

Carl – He stated that he used the State's model and went through it one section at a time and tailored the draft as a starting point for Fort Fairfield's ordinance to help keep us focused on the subject. He also stated that he concurred with Tony's assessment of not needing sub-committees.

Mike – There are several communities out there that have gone through this process and one of them is Oakfield. I have not read their 2011 report which is 154 pages. They have done this report in different sections (topics) and they talk at length on sound and noise. There are all kinds of information out there from various communities.

Carl – There is also the National Wind Coordinating Committee (NWCC) document “Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities, A HANDBOOK, REVISED 2002” online with a lot of information there also.

It was recommended that the committee would work together as a whole on each topic, forgoing creating subcommittees. Everyone was asked to make an effort to be at the meetings.

V. New Business

A. Lists topics to be researched, reviewed, discussed –

Jim – asked if the group could get a map showing the ridge line in Fort Fairfield.

Todd – Thought there is a map that shows the ridge line highlighted as the premium opportunities in Fort Fairfield going all the way to Fort Kent.

Jim – It would help us to understand what we are looking at, give us an idea of set backs from homes.

Carl – What we should be doing is looking at overall standards that would apply no matter where the wind turbines are located in Fort Fairfield and get that documented. It is up to the wind farm applicant to decide whether or not they can fit their foot print within the confines of a certain area based on our criteria.

Todd - should be for the whole town as a blanket.

John – what ultimately is going to influence us with what we come up with is the desires of the people that are in affected areas. That is why we are here.

Heather – Companies will decide if they meet the standards that we set.

Tony – the issue here is that we are going to have a recommendation for a standard and this can be amended by public input. We are only looking at creating a standard at this time.

Brent - there are a few people here that have a good handle on this already, so for my benefit lets just look at the ordinance and go step by step, looking at a different topic at each meeting.

Todd - Fort Fairfield is popular because it is a double township and it has a lot of opportunities. If we could just see the map it would help us to understand the ridgeline. We need to do our research and read the reports.

Phil - this is a very controversial subject, we have to look at the research, decide what is best for Fort Fairfield citizens. Nothing to do with the companies. We should be able to come to a good conclusion.

Dick- We need to review the ordinance, come back here with a grasp of the language

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and educated ourselves.

Todd – asked if anyone has had an opportunity to visit a wind facility? We have one at UMPI then of course there is Mars Hill. During this process he thought it might be helpful to visit one.

Mike – thought that he might be able to arrange a tour with the Mars Hill facility.

It was agreed that the committee members would like to have a tour to experience the different things such as flickering and the noise.

B. Review of Sample Ordinances -

Carl - the assignment for the next meeting which is scheduled for November 17th everyone should read over the State's ordinance versus the draft that he prepared. Also understand that there is a difference between a small and a large facility. The State's covers both. In there, 1A and 1B relate to small wind energy, and 2 and 3 relate to large wind energy, determined by turbine capacity not number of turbines in the facility.

VI. Other - NONE

Adjourned at 7:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Hersey