

MINUTES

MIDDLETOWN WIND TURBINE FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2010

6:00 pm

MIDDLETOWN POLICE STATION COMMUNITY ROOM

Present: Christine Weglowski Forster, Shawn Brown, Don Mallinson, Arak Bozyan, Barbara Vonvillas, Ray Mosher,

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

1. Ms. Forster related that at the January 11, meeting of EBEC officers were elected by voting members. Chair, is Jean Napolitano (Newport), Vice-chair Andy Shapiro (Warren), Secretary Jeanne Boyle, Treasurer Diane Williamson (Bristol). The slate ran unopposed. Mr Brown expressed some reservation that the EBEC was electing officers when it was not yet an official entity. Ms. Von Villas concurred, stating that these positions could make policy for the group, Ms Forster and Mr.Brown will discuss this further.

2. In news on Simmons Farm, Mr Brown related that at the December 10, 2009 meeting of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission the commission heard the request of Simmons Farm for permission to erect wind turbines at the farm. The Simmons, in partnership with the Town, would like to benefit from wind energy and welcome Town-owned turbines on their property. The Director of DEM was supportive of the request, and instructed the Town to send a letter to

Ken Ayers of the Agricultural Division of DEM. The commission's concern was that minimum agricultural land be lost, and that the turbine location be along an existing sightline such as a farm road or wall. The site selected complies with those requests as the land is not under cultivation but is grazing land, and is at an existing farm road. The commission was satisfied that construction disruption would be minimal and restored to near pre-construction condition. The commission through USDA would likely approve two turbines, with a likely scenario of one for the farm, and one for the Town potentially 2.6 MW total. The commission supports farms keeping themselves financially viable. Commission would like a resolution from the Town Council. Woodard and Curran provided location maps. Town is currently in the public hearing phase of adopting a wind energy section of zoning ordinance. Committee member Don Mallinson will visit the Simmons family and update them.

3. There was some discussion about using ARRA funding for these turbines, as there is potentially \$750,000 available in the second round of applications in March. It would require the ordinance, and Council support.

4. There was some small discussion of formation of utility or an enterprise fund for the value of the electricity generated by Town turbines. Mr Bozyan had a question about who would select the 10 meters currently allowed for credit under the RI net metering legislation. It is the Town's choice.

Additions/corrections to christineforster.ri@gmail.com