

MINUTES

MIDDLETOWN WIND TURBINE FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 14, 2010

6:00 pm

MIDDLETOWN POLICE STATION COMMUNITY ROOM

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

1. Forster reported that at the July 12, 2010 regular meeting of the East Bay Energy Consortium (EBEC) Attorney Wineberg offered his legal opinion that it was not an ethics violation for a representative of EBEC to resign as a representative and to work for an EBEC contractor. There was some discussion on the matter and it was decided that the person wishing to resign should make a formal request to the state Ethics Commission for an opinion on this issue. A draft of the Phase 2 Study was presented. The group suggested a briefing meeting with municipal administrators and finance directors when the report is in final form. The contractor ASA had submitted an invoice for the Phase 2 feasibility study. As part of the original scope of work, the funds are available and the fiscal agent will make the payment. ASA committed to researching the cost of a met tower for the final location of the EBEC project, and reporting this cost to EDC and EBEC. EDC's Julian Dash was present and he committed RIEDC to assuming the cost for erection, insurance and monitoring the data

for one year, as well as removal of the tower. Tiverton is in the process of drafting an RFP for a master plan for its industrial park. Funding is from an \$80,000 grant to be administered by the Small Business Administration.

2. There was discussion about the recent Planning Board meeting. An amendment to the wind energy ordinance in the town code with language prohibiting wind turbine in areas that may have “historic views” of if the turbine “dominates” the landscape. The Planning Board did not receive a second on the motion to recommend the amendment to the Town Council and so failed to pass. Generally the Wind Turbine Committee felt that the ordinance amendment would preclude any utility scale wind turbine in Middletown that anyone objected to. The committee agreed that a balance is needed. Any large turbine would be the tallest feature in the landscape, but Town should be thinking about reducing costs. Because Middletown has a reliable wind resource, we should take advantage of the this resource. The committee hoped that the Planning Board would not resurrect this amendment.

3. Meeting adjourned at 6:50. Next meeting scheduled for August 2, 2010