

Groton Planning Board  
Minutes 11/19/14

Present: Chairman Slim Spafford, Deb Johnson, Russ Carruth, Celine Richer, Jenny Burnett, Ray Blake and Dave Labar

Absent: Sherry Nelson and Bob Ferriere, Select Board Liaison

Meeting opened at 7:10 PM.

The minutes of 10/29/14 were read and after minor edits approved as amended by all except Russ and Celine who abstained.

The Board then turned its attention to the following matter. On Nov 5, EDP Renewables (EDPR) filed plans with the Federal Aviation Administration for 29 wind turbines standing 499 feet in height. The turbines would be scattered among Alexandria, Canaan, Dorchester, Groton and Orange. 11 wind towers are planned to be located in Groton. These newly proposed turbines would be just over 100 feet taller than the existing Groton wind turbines.

New SEC rules will apply in July 2015 that will take the wishes of town residents under greater consideration than they have in the past when large scale developments like EDPR's are proposed. The Board discussed options for assessing the current sentiment of the townspeople so that a statement could be conveyed to the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). A check of the results of last year's survey led to the consensus that more clearly relevant opinions needed to be solicited.

The upshot of some at times heated debate was that Celine moved and Dave seconded that the Planning Board create a mailing which would gauge the sentiments of registered voters regarding any forthcoming proposals for additional wind farms in Groton. The motion was passed with unanimous approval. We then carefully crafted the language of the mailing, which is as follows:

"Town of Groton Planning Board

754 North Groton Road

Groton, NH 03241

(Date)

According to an article in the Sunday Union Leader dated 16 Nov, 2014 – 'On Nov 5, EDP filed plans with the Federal Aviation Administration for 29 wind turbines standing 499 feet in height. The turbines would be scattered among Alexandria, Canaan, Dorchester, Groton and Orange.' These new turbines will be over 100 feet taller than the existing Groton wind turbines.

You have the opportunity to give the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee feedback by responding to this mailing. Please indicate below your sentiment regarding additional industrial wind turbines located in Groton.

Please choose **ONLY** one and respond no later than **(Date)**

I **support** additional industrial wind turbines in Groton: \_\_\_\_\_

I **oppose** additional industrial wind turbines in Groton: \_\_\_\_\_"

The mailing will include a stamped return envelope, which is an expense we deemed worthwhile on such an important matter. Deb moved and Celine seconded that we accept the mailing language, and all voted in favor. We agreed as a group to watch our email for an opportunity to help stuff envelopes.

The next regular Planning Board meeting will be held December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

-Minutes prepared by Jenny Burnett