

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

July 8, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, David Jaacks, Ted Emerson

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:58 AM.
- 2) Discuss application to Green Mountain Power for wind turbine – David said Green Mountain Power (GMP) is looking for a site, with access to 3-phase power, to install a wind turbine free of charge. David added that the town would get 10% of the energy produced. David would like to submit an application on behalf of West Windsor. Glenn asked if the town would have any obligation in this initial phase. David said he is not aware of any obligation. Tom asked what site David has in mind. David said he is thinking of the town forest, near the quarry, because there is a substation on Churchill Road and 3-phase power at the Resort. Ted asked why GMP wants to install a single unit, given the potential for economies of scale with multiple units. David said he thinks it's a public relations project for GMP. Ted said they're trying to show the public what these things look like. Ted said he is supportive of alternative energy. Glenn said he is supportive as well but there has not been much discussion in town about using town property for alternative energy installations. Glenn said he is concerned about the lack of opportunity for public input but comforted by the fact that submitting an application does not create any obligation on the part of the town. David said this particular 120' wind turbine is one of the best looking and quietest units available. Ted agreed. David said the energy could be used for the town hall, school and library and set a positive environmental tone for the area. Glenn said he's sure the impact to the town forest would have to be discussed. Tom asked if the site for the turbine has to be town-owned or if it could be leased by the town. Tom suggested the land behind the talc plant. David said if the town had a 20-year lease on that land, it would probably work. David said GMP will do further analysis and site visits and then select the most promising site. Tom said, if nothing else, we could get free information on our town's wind power potential. Glenn said he doesn't see a lot of downside risk to applying. Tom agreed. Glenn asked when the application is due. David said it is due at 5:00 PM today. David shared a draft application with the Selectboard. Those present looked at an approximate location for the turbine on a map. **Tom made a motion to support the energy committee's application to Green Mountain Power for a wind turbine, as described. Glenn seconded the motion. Ted thanked David for pursuing these larger scope projects. Glenn thanked David as well. Glenn then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.** Tom suggested following up on the talc plant as a possible location. Glenn said if the Resort changes hands, the new owners might be receptive to having a turbine on their property, where it would be more accessible to the grid. Ted pointed out that there is an existing power easement across the Resort property. There was discussion about the potential for additional turbines in the future which could save the Resort a lot of money. Glenn said the resorts out west widely advertise the amount of renewable energy they use.
- 3) Adjourn – **Tom made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 AM. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison