

TOWN OF GREEN BAY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: 2/19/08

TIME: 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: John Metzler, Dawn Goodman, Bob Boncher, Gary Jonet, Dianne Jacobs.

ABSENT: Bob Geyer, Mike Gilson

*No one else was present from the public or business sector.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES: John Metzler opened the meeting & noted that it was properly posted in 3 places. The minutes from 12/18/7 were reviewed.

MOTION MADE BY: Gary Jonet to accept the minutes.

MOTION 2NDED BY: Bob Boncher.

AYES: 5

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

ISSUE #1: The Wind Turbine Ordinance Development. (7:03-8:15 pm)

Planning Commission Secretary, Dawn Goodman, handed out special expandable folders to each of the Planning Commission members present to utilize for keeping the growing amount of information about Wind Turbines. She also presented the Binder she set up for the information to the Planning Commission to keep a main record of all the information in at the Town Hall with the Town Clerk.

Dianne Jacobs reported that she had not yet heard back from the Town's Attorney, Steven Gillis, who is reviewing the draft Planning Commission secretary, Dawn Goodman, put together from recommendations the Planning Commission decided upon, entitled "Town of Green Bay Wind Energy System Zoning Ordinance" and the additional materials Dianne included for his reference and potential addition, entitled "Town of Rockland Large Wind Energy Facility Ordinance".

At the request of Planning Commission chairman, John Metzler, the Planning Commission reviewed the Town of Green Bay's Setback policies and then also reviewed the suggested Setback policies in the Town of Glenmore's Wind Turbine ordinance. John Metzler reported that he had concerns about setbacks being far enough due to inquiries he had made with nearby small wind turbine operators on Highway T to see if they had any issues with blades or other equipment flying/falling off of their turbines. John also sited a German report regarding Turbine blades flying off which he had given to the Planning Commission at the last meeting in January. The Planning Commission agreed that blades flying off and the potential damage and injury this could cause is indeed alarming and must be taken into consideration regarding Setbacks.

Dawn Goodman referred the Planning Commission to the Final Report of the Township of Lincoln Wind Turbine Moratorium Committee, about Setbacks, which stated: "The minimum suggested setback from the nearest residences or public buildings is 1,000 feet, though 1,500 feet was recommended. Setbacks from adjacent property lines will be no less than the tower height plus the length of an extended blade. Minimum distance between turbines will never be less than 800 feet". Dawn mentioned how unhappy the Lincoln community is with the situation there even to this day and urged the Town to take this into account and try not to make the same mistakes that seemed to have occurred in that situation. She made copies of the report for all of the Planning Commission to review.

Gary Jonet recommended that the Planning Commission make sure that whatever Setback requirements are decided upon be inclusive for all of the zoning areas in question in order to keep matters standardized. Gary further recommended that the proposed ordinance for Town of Green Bay read: "Each wind tower shall be set back from the nearest property line, public road, communication and/or electrical lines a distance no less than 1.5 times it's total height. Setbacks could be decreased if written permission of a waiver is secured from the affected parties. In no instance shall the setback from an inhabited structure be decreased to less than 1.5 times the total height of the wind tower" John Metzler agreed. After further consideration the rest of those present agreed as well.

Gary Jonet went on to recommend that the Planning Commission also include the following: "The wind tower in a small wind energy system must be set back the total height of the tower plus two hundred feet (200 feet) from any inhabited structure, property line, public road, or communication and/or electrical lines. A minimum of two (2) acres per wind energy facility is required." All present Planning Commission members agreed on this.

The Planning Commission also discussed issues of Conflict of Interest. A number of members reported they had heard that other towns and/or villages had issues that have occurred in their wind turbine ordinance development resulting in potential legal action against them. The Planning Commission agreed the rules regarding this will need to be reviewed and followed carefully.

In Conclusion: The Planning Commission agreed that no further action could be taken on the matter of the Ordinance until we receive feedback on the Ordinance draft from the Town's attorney, Steven Gillis.

ISSUE #2: Opportunity to apply for Federal Funding in the Statewide Multi-modal improvement program (SMIP), which includes both the new BPPF (Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program) and the TE (Transportation Enhancements) Program for the 2009-2011 period. (8:15-8:25 p.m.)

Dawn Goodman passed out information concerning this to all of the Planning Commission members present. She explained that Town Chairman Lee Dechamps had suggested the Planning Commission look it over to see if there was a project they might want to pursue funding for. The information was reviewed and the Planning Commission discussed in particular the following stipulations from the 2008 SMIP Fact Sheet: "Design and nonconstruction projects costing \$25,000 federal and above are eligible...real estate as a stand-alone or component of a construction project has a minimum of \$100,000 total...construction-related projects costing \$200,000 total and above are eligible...projects can receive reimbursement for up to 80% of the project application cost estimate." Dawn Goodman suggested a potential project that would involve a paved shoulder for bicyclists and pedestrians to link the Bay Shore Park Bicycle Trail with the Town of Green Bay along Highway P and Highway K into Champion (or along Gravel Pit Road and then to Highway K) up to the Town Hall with a possible enhancement to the Aux Premiere Belgian monument, such as a kiosk with more information about the history of the first Belgians. A discussion ensued regarding the lack of available State, County and Town monies for even basic projects like road repair in the Town of Green Bay.

In Conclusion: The Planning Commission decided to not participate in the program at this time since it could not justify spending monies needed for more essential Town needs, especially in light of the money not being guaranteed for reimbursement.

ISSUE #3: Report on Wisconsin Town's Association's Agriculture Community Engagement Seminar on "Agriculture's Changing Face—Meeting Environmental & Community Needs".

At the request of the Town Board, Dawn Goodman was asked to attend the seminar and then give a report on the information presented at the February 12, 2008 ACE Program, which was a collaborative effort between the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Wisconsin Counties Association. Her report included information about: "The Discovery Farms Update"; "A Livestock Siting Update"; "A Look at Dairy In the Rearview Mirror"; "WI Dairy Producers Panel Sharing Why They Grew Their Businesses, Obstacles and Growth, and Future Business Issues".

ISSUE #4: Any Other Business

There were no other issues or business addressed.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Dianne Jacob made a motion to Adjourn, John Metzler seconded.

AYES: 5

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 8:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Chairman

Planning Commission Secretary