

Minutes for the Marlboro Planning Commission/Tuesday June 22, 15

Present: Matt Tell, Bennet Grout, Staley McDermet, Patti Smith, Mary Sargent (Zoning Administrator)

Guests: Jason Day (Star Wind Turbines); Alain Ratheau; John Robhon.

Matt called the meeting to at 5:05

1) **Minutes:** Motion and second to approve minutes of June 9th. Approved unanimously.

2) **Communications:** No communications

3) Presentation by Jason Day of Star Wind Turbines

Starting to manufacture small wind turbines in Manchester and are promoting as ideal for small wind energy generation in Vermont.

Designed for low to moderate winds. Move slower, make very little noise, have more blades. Proportionally fewer avian and bat collisions. Silent at the property line at 200-300 feet. They make 30', 50', and 100' towers.

According to Jason, Vermont defines "small wind turbines" as 150 foot: Go to vermontspeed.com for state technical specs.

They are promoting their company as a way to support the local economy and to address climate change, and present an alternative to the industrial wind farms that are controversial.

John from Jacksonville spoke in favor of the design of Star Wind turbines. He has a wind turbine and wishes he had the single pole Star Wind type because they can go in a variety of places and have a small footprint.

4) Zoning By-Law Revision

Resume zoning by-law revision at **Section 470: Renewable Energy Systems** to incorporate the new information. In the *Purpose* we agreed to eliminate the phrase "installed to reduce or replace the on-site consumption of utility-supplied electricity."

470.3 Small Wind Energy Systems.

In the definition, we decided to eliminate restriction on the number of turbines at a site, and instead regulate just capacity of the system. Thus: "A wind energy conversion system ~~consisting of one or more wind turbines, a tower,~~ and associated control or conversion electronics . . ."

We then agreed to increase the capacity of the system from 50kw to 100kw.

We also redefined "wind tower height" to include the blades.

Change 470.b Permitted Uses and Requirements section was changed to say "A small wind energy systems shall be a ~~permitted use~~ conditional use in all zoning districts. . ."

Patti handed out a map showing the undeveloped waters in Marlboro as mapped by Jeff Nugent as part of WRC report on Undeveloped Waters of Southeastern Vermont. Might be useful for upcoming discussion of Shoreland and Surface Water Overlay District.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm

Next meeting: July 14, 5 pm

Respectfully submitted, Patti Smith