

FAIRFIELD- SWANTON WIND PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, October 12, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Chester Arthur Room

Purpose: To discuss the Swanton Wind Project and to provide a forum to hear from Fairfield residents and taxpayers.

Vanessa Kittell – Town of Fairfield Moderator Call to order 6:30 pm.

Vanessa welcomed all attendees, offered summary of agenda and explained that due to large number of attendees Fairfield residents and taxpayers would be given preference in speaking order. Moderator explained structure of meeting as follows: the Roberts Rules of Order were in place for duration of meeting, all comments to be directed to the Moderator; each speaker will wait to speak until recognized; each person will have 3 minutes to speak; comments will switch between alternating views; and a person will only be allowed to speak once until all others have been heard.

6:30-6:45- Presentation by Swanton Wind representative to address some of the issues considered to be of greatest interest to Fairfield.

Ashley Belisle spoke stating that they were preparing to seek permits. They have deep roots & ties to the community and live a few hundred feet away from the project.

Anthony Iarripino noted that the project timeline has been slowed down for dialogue. He noted that renewable energy is needed to address extreme weather and climate change due to too much CO₂ in the atmosphere. Wind is part of this solution. Vermont has the 2nd lowest electric rates in New England from renewables.

Martha Staskus stated that the project is proposing 7 wind turbines providing up to 20 megawatts, they will be 499 feet tall and will have a wind speed of 6.5 meters per second. Archaeological, ecological, fish & wildlife, deer watering and visual assessment will all be studies to be included in the project.

Clean water issues will be addressed. The focus is how to create clean energy & keep water clean at the same time. The watershed-less than .6 acres will be impermeable and 2 watershed acres will be cleared.

In Sheffield and Crystal Lake in Barton the water quality has been monitored and the good news is the Lowell turbines have not negatively affected it. The water is collected and infiltrated and is allowed to slowly seep into ground.

Clean water priority info-www.swantonwind.com

6:45-7:00- Q&A

Shanna Ratner- If 5% goes to Fairfield Pond Watershed where does the 95% go? To St Albans Bay but that doesn't mean pollution is draining there. Studies mentioned before show this.

Mark Dubie-When doing the wetlands study the company trespassed while doing wetlands delineation. Why did they trespass? They responded they had spoke to owner about the error as soon as they learned it wasn't Belisles' land they took wetland flags down.

Setback question- 1.1x blade length is setback

Fred Parks-Lack of confidence in project based on amount of errors already heard tonight.

Response: Projects are heavily regulated and closely monitored when it gets to PSB level-ANR, AOT-Regulatory Agencies.

Meg Patenaude-What is the electricity benefit?

The power is sold to VT utilities. It is distributed prorated to utilities will stabilize long term rates to benefit all rate payers.

Sally Collopy read aloud a letter that electric companies don't want or need power.

Response was that electric companies are taking the same stance with private hydro power as well. They want to own and run their own projects to make more money.

Ken Fox-Swanton Wind mentioned a delay in PSB for meetings like this-how much of a delay is expected? Response of 1 month, give or take.

Anne Howrigan-Is Dec 2016 a deadline for federal tax credits?

Response was that there is no deadline currently in place but if put in place it will have some relevance.

Susan Seymour-Shadow flicker is caused by turbines, what is the appropriate amount of hours?

Modeling hasn't been done in this case but generally acceptable is 20-30 hours per year. PSB will look at public health and safety when modeling is done.

Louis Lacroix-what is safe setback from property lines?

1.1xradius of rotor-The diameter of which is 121 meters.

Fireman Requirements-

Mock emergency protocols.

Collapse-

PSB will look at risk. Historically is low. Tower Collapse 1-17,000 years for any given turbines

Blade Failure is rare and is attributed to outdated technology

7:00-7:30- Opportunity for residents/ taxpayers to share views.

Bruce Collopy-Has run the Fairfield Pond Recreation Association for 15 years and noted that there will be "victims" within certain distance and zero benefits to the Town of Fairfield.

Anne Howrigan- Many unanswered questions-taking prime ridgeline and destroying beautiful habitat.

Penny Dubie-It is said that the sound is like a refrigerator or babbling brook, yet many describe sound like a train or airplane. Goldwind Chinese company makes turbines

GE says the amount is 106 db less than 1000 feet from turbine. A chainsaw is 109 db at less than 1000 feet.

William Morey- Important to first find where property lines are.

Dennis Hendy-Sheffield, Lowell, Georgia are running 23-25% of time – realistically not replacing any current energy sources.

Paula Pearsall-Concerned about bats and health. Asked Fairfield Selectboard to concur the project should be opposed.

Greg Pearce-Legislators take away the ability to approve project and we should communicate with legislators. Citizens should decide.

Greg Hunter-

A jet plane is 140-150db and a whisper is 25 db in room, these are worthless numbers unless you have distance.

Kathy Parks-Camp is 2 miles away but 1/2 is over water. So sound will be heard equal to 1 mile away.
Response that sound doesn't increase over water, it doesn't amplify but yes carries over water better.

Sally Collopy-deduct the part over water swantonwind.com

Diane Bell-Concerned about wildlife. PSB swears agencies in & give testimony whether it will meet standards.

Rusty Branon-Wants to build home on Barry Road. Asks board to look into it-even though he understands it isn't up to the local boards, he asks to weigh the benefits vs risk.

When you file permit application will it be on website? Yes.

Fred Parks- Swanton Town and Reps have taken a stand- Request State of Vermont agencies to take action regarding health issues.

Sleep deprivation causes real problems to real people-ask PSB to take action.

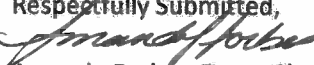
NE Kingdom should have no more wind turbine development NEVDA.net

Gene Archambault, Fairfield Select Board member stated that there seems to be no benefit to the Town of Fairfield and some real concerns to its townspeople.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.

In attendance:

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| Ron Bocash | Denise Bocash | John A. Smith |
| Karen M. Burns | Travis Belisle | Ashley Belisle |
| Anthony Iarrapino | Martha Staskus | John Zimmerman |
| Mary H. Bushey | Diane Bell | Shauna Ratner |
| Joy Kane | Anne Howrigan | Cliff Bates |
| Ben Mitchell | Ruth Bates | Tammy White |
| Paula Pearsall | Bill Pearsall | Deb Wright |
| Penny Dubie | Candace LaCroix | John LaCroix |
| Megan Branon Smith | Rusty Branon | Sen. Dustin Degree |
| Dusty Lang | Christine Lang | Luc Deslandes |
| Michelle Deslandes | Ray Callan Jr. | Lynn Calla |
| Ashley Callan | Elaine Bolio | Marianne Dubie |
| Mark Dubie | Katherine Parks | Susan Gaange |
| Margreth Patenaude | Mark Bushey | Dennis J. Hendy |
| Pat Messier | Danielle Gourant | Marie Tremblay |
| Gil Tremblay | Sally Collopy | Patty Rainville |
| Diana Bailey | Deanna Smith | Mark Dubie |
| Rep. Marianne Gamache | Frederick Parks | |

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Forbes, Town Clerk

To the best of my recollection, I attest that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the events of the Public Meeting on October 12, 2015.


Vanessa B. Kittell, Moderator