

Town of Knox - Planning Board Meeting Minutes

14 May 2009 meeting.

Present: D. Driscoll, R. Gwin, B. Ketcham, R. Price, B. Pulliam, T. Wolfe

The Meeting was called to order at 1935.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

The first item on the agenda was a request by Mr. Frank Muia to reconsider a proposed subdivision of his property on Rte 156. Mr. Muia informed the Board that his plans for subdividing his property were not being advanced at this time due to family considerations and withdrew his request.

The Board then continued its discussion of commercial Wind turbine Systems (CWTS).

Amy Pokorney of the Helderberg Wind lobbying organization read an informational handout in support of Commercial Wind Turbine Systems [CWTS]. Several others also made statements regarding the benefits and problems associated with CWTS.

The options for the Town for dealing with CWTS were identified as either :

1) Ban CWTS. Current zoning law prohibits any towers over 200' tall, but there is concern about the legality of banning CWTS anywhere in Town, and whether this would fully protect the Town not only from CWT impacts but also if the lack of any ordinance would leave the Town vulnerable to legal challenges from large commercial developers.

2) Create a new Town CWTS law. This would detail the requirements for allowable CWTS development in Town. There is concern that the law would have to allow all energy companies access to the Town.

At this point, Chairman Price noted there is a great deal of conflicting information available on the benefits and problems with CWTS . The PB is continuing to gather information from its meetings as well as many websites and other sources, and would use current laws as input to the PB's standard open public process for developing a new law.

Invasive Species conference report.

Dan Driscoll provided a summary power-point presentation on the conference he recently attended at the Rensselaerville Institute.

Meeting was adjourned at 2105.

Next meeting will be on June 11, 2009 @ 1930