

**PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF KNOX
ALBANY COUNTY
Established 1822**

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2009

Present: Tom Wolfe, Brett Pulliam, Bob Price, Betty Ketcham, Stew Kidder, Dan Driscoll

Meeting called to order 1935.

The Board began by discussing the July minutes. Betty Ketcham made a motion to approve as written, Dan Driscoll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board then heard from members who had attended the **Planning Seminar on July 23**. The Board members who were in attendance agreed it was extremely informative.

Finally, the Board discussed the issue of a **Commercial Wind Turbine ordinance**. Dan Driscoll proposed an alternative motion to the one he had presented at the July meeting.

Motion made to begin drafting an ordinance for industrial scale wind turbines. Tom Wolfe seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Driscoll explained the reason for modifying his original motion is that whether the Board decides to ban industrial-scale wind turbines or not, an ordinance has to be written, so at some point in the future when all the members are present we can make a decision about what the beginning of the ordinance should say. The Board members discussed which ordinance should be used as a model. Chairman Price said he will email the Board members links to the ordinances he has so Board members can review them before the next meeting. Chairman Price and Dan Driscoll also agreed to email the lists they presented at a previous meeting examining different pros and cons of the CWTs so that Board members can keep in mind the features that need to be included in the Knox ordinance.

The Board then opened the floor for comments from the audience:

- Ron Jordan mentioned that England has spent a lot of time examining the issue of property values and the Town of Richmondville has spent a lot of time on setbacks. He offered those as sources of more information should the Board need them.

- Travis Stevens asked if any consideration be given to height? Chairman Price responded that most CWTs are well over 200 feet so at least some of them will need to be lit to conform with FAA regulations.

- Tim Lippert pointed out that the Comprehensive Master Plan does not state that people want industrial scale wind turbines in the town of Knox. Chairman Price responded that he was not sure why that point is valid. Dan Driscoll further responded that at the last meeting the Board discussed the current zoning ordinance including the prohibition on towers over a certain height. Right now, industrial-scale wind turbines are prohibited and what the Board is looking at is whether to modify that portion of the Ordinance.

- Ed Ackroyd asked if other towns take votes in Executive Session, a question related to the recent FOIL request he submitted. Chairman Price stated that he was not sure this was the appropriate venue to be discussing that request but that he does not know what other towns do. Mr. Ackroyd rephrased the question to ask if the Town of Knox takes votes in executive session? Chairman Price asked if this was a criminal investigation to which Mr. Ackroyd answered "no". Chairman Price went on to state that the only executive session the Planning Board has had was the one Chairman Price gave Mr. Ackroyd information about, and Chairman Price is not sure if a vote was taken since the only set of minutes does not mention a vote. Mr. Ackroyd went on to ask if Chairman Price knows the rules governing executive session to which Chairman Price responded "I don't know". Mr. Ackroyd asked if he meant that he does not know the rules or if he meant that he does not know if he knows them. Chairman Price stated that he had already answered the question.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2005.

The next meeting will be on 10 September, 2009 @ 1930.