

Gloucester Clean Energy Commission Minutes for May 24, 2011

Present: David Anderson, Dale Blank, Ann Drake, Carol Sharoff, Bill Fonvielle, Jane Stempel, Jay Stempel, Larry Durkin, Sam Cleaves, Tom Balf, Linda Saunders, Linda Brayton, Candace Wheeler, Steve Winslow, Jill Buchanan

April Minutes approved on condition of adding Candace's name to the attendees of that meeting.

Bill Fonvielle Presents PowerPoint on Bond Hill neighborhood concerns, including:

- They will be eyeball to eyeball with the turbines. Same topographical level as the project.
- Setback requirements: they believe that required setback is 250 feet given our city statute.
- Flo design gave them a 164 page analysis. Their concerns with the analysis include: New England is not included in the study; no coastal communities. They believe the housing market is different here. Also research doesn't include any homes within 800 feet, and few within a mile. Some findings are counterintuitive- e.g., turbine in scenic area causes people to think it's even more scenic- this is counterintuitive. Also, closer homes show greater price volatility with sharp decline in home value 4 years after tower construction. Note: their concerns are based on research on turbines at the standard industrial size (much larger than flo design)
- Question: Do FloDesign turbines have lights on them?
- They want to know whether building this close to residences is unprecedented
- They are concerned about ecological and economic consequences. Wind turbine syndrome, Ann Drake sensitive to vibrations and would have to move.
- They are concerned that the turbines are untested and untried; this is an experiment.
- They feel that wind doesn't belong here- better in the plains states.
- They are opposed to having them in the midst of residential areas.

Discussion of collaboration with City staff and committees:

* Larry Durkin talked about DPW interest in being involved in clean energy. City has 3700 acres of watershed land. Pumping of water is a big energy consumer. Two water treatment plants make it much more expensive to maintain. They are looking at wind power for reservoirs- to circulate water and keep it fresh.

Also, solar water mixers; potentially larger solar arrays at Babson or Bond Hill

We discussed communications process for collaborating with DPW and other committees, such as the citizen water committee, which has as part of their mission statement to collaborate with us.

Dave Anderson suggested we go through Facilities Director Jim Hafey to discuss specific project opportunities. We will include Larry, Dave and Jim Hafey in distribution of

minutes, ask them to review and make suggestions for our strategic plan, and invite them to meetings on a regular basis. Steve Winslow will also serve as a communications liaison.

Tom will continue working on the strategic plan- revising it with greater emphasis on integrating DPW and Facilities Management clean energy priorities.

Brief discussion of the potential of working with an ESCO- Linda Saunders has offered her expertise to City staff in the discovery process around this option. City is looking into joint procurement of an ESCO with other communities. This option, brought forth by MAPC, requires that we begin to compile a wish list of facilities that would be included in an audit with a deadline of early June.

Steve W gave a staff report. He explained that he has been in touch with FloDesign's Bill Patton, who is continuing to reach out to neighbors. He also reported on the recent meeting with Boreal about the Blackburn wind options. The city and Boreal are looking for best strategies for going forward at the Blackburn site. An interesting proposal was raised, whereby Gloucester Engineering might work with EDIC as vehicle to move the project forward.

Discussed communications plan- The plan creates guidelines for best communications practices internally and externally. We agreed to begin to do more external outreach, starting with monthly column in GDT, regular blog entries in existing popular local blog sites, and scoping out a series of presentations. Also, we will have a more rigorous internal process for communication from the commission to staff and other relevant committees.

We discussed the need to make a final recommendation to decision makers about the option for wind turbines at Bond Hill.

AI: CEC members will send their priorities and comments on the draft strategic plan to Tom for compilation and presentation at next CEC meeting.

AI: Tom will create a memo to the mayor summarizing the Bond Hill neighbor concerns for the mayor and summarizing our conclusion to date. We will discuss final recommendations at our next meeting.

AI: Tom and Candace and Steve to meet with Ray Lamont. Ask if he will host a monthly clean energy column.

AI: Jill to set up meeting for Tom, Candace and Steve to meet with Ray Lamont and GDT staff.

AI: Linda to provide one-page summary of commission mission, which we will provide to Ray.

AI: Steve and Linda S. to work with the city to identify wish list buildings for MAPC regional ESCO option.

AI: Tom to add to internal process section of the communications plan.

AI: Steve and Tom will formalize a communication process between CEC and city staff and discuss implementation of the Green Communities goals in relation to our strategic plan.

IA: Tom/Jill to send Dave and Larry the final minutes and revised strategic plan.

AI: Jill to speak with GMG's Joey C. about regular blog entries on clean energy issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Buchanan, GCEC