

June 5, 2024

Minutes for the Planning Board Meeting of the Town of Smithfield held June 5, 2024 at the Smithfield Community Center commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman	James Stokes
Planning Board Member	Brian Rose
Planning Board Member	Pam Palmer
Planning Board Member	Jacob Donovan-Colin (Absent)
Planning Board Member	Dorothy Willsey (Absent)
Planning Board Member	Fred Widger
Planning Board Member	Sarah Ficken
Planning Board Clerk	Christine Boyden

Others Present: Zach Myshkoff, Lydia Lake, Dave Strong, Larry Cesario and Scott Gregor

-The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Stokes at 7:02 pm.

Dave Strong, project developer for New Leaf Energy explains that they came before the Planning Board for approval to put up a Meteorological Evaluation Tower (MET) tower at 4906 Goff Road, Morrisville, NY 13408 (Tax Map #80.-2-66). Dave explains this MET tower would be in place for at least a year, likely two to three years, and would provide data for a single wind turbine.

Chairman James Stokes inquires if this MET tower will be similar to the one on Peterboro Road in which Dave responds he believes they are the same. Chairman James Stokes also asks about the Department of Defense Radar Testing Site. Dave responds that when they file the turbine structure with the FAA, the DOD will be notified. He says the distance between the DOD and the MET tower should be more than adequate.

Lydia Lake from New Leaf Energy explains that the location of the MET tower is in compliance with all of the Towns bylaws. The set back needs to be two times the height of the proposed turbine. The top of the turbine is near the neighbors parcels so New Leaf Energy acquired a set back waiver from the neighbor.

Planning Board Member Brian Rose wants to know what this turbine is going to look like in comparison to Fenner's turbines. Dave Strong explains that Fenner's turbines are about 350 feet to the top of tower and the blades are about 120 feet. The proposed turbine on Goff Road would be 410 feet to the top of the tower and the blades would be 150 feet (totaling around 560 feet). The blades would be longer and made from fiberglass to make them much stronger, this would make the rpm's of the blades much lower, Fenner's are about 25 rpm's, Smithfields would be about 8 rpm's.

Codes Enforcement Officer Larry Cesario expresses concern over the noise of the proposed turbine. Dave Strong explains the volume of the turbine can be adjusted. The acoustic conditions will be monitored.

Chairman James Stokes inquired if there is an existing turbine that would be similar to the proposed turbine. Lydia Lake explains that Blue Stone Windsor (by Binghamton) would be the closest resemblance to this project but the turbines in Blue Stone Windsor are larger than the proposed turbine. James Stokes also asks where the turbine would be relevant to where the MET tower will be. Lydia Lake explains that they will be in the same location so the MET tower will be taken down for the turbine.

Habitat studies have been completed. New Leaf Energy will work with the DEC to shut off the turbine at certain times for the bats.

Dave Strong explains that New Leaf Energy only does the project development. Once the site is designed and permitted, they will find an owner for the project to take over responsibility of ownership and operations. All the conditions from the Planning Board will carry over to the new owner of the turbine. This project will be a couple million dollar project.

Approval of Minutes-

On a motion made by Chairman James Stokes, seconded by Board Member Brian Rose February 19, 2024 and March 25, 2024 minutes were approved

Ayes: 5 - Chairman James Stokes, Board Members: Pam Palmer, Brian Rose, Fred Widger and Sarah Ficken

Nays: 0

New Business- Public Hearing will be on June 24, 2024 at 7 pm.

Adjournment-

With no further business, on a motion made by Board Member Sarah Ficken seconded by Board Member Fred Widger the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. All said aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Boyden
Planning Board Clerk