

Alternative Energy Committee Minutes June 9th, 2011

Minutes for the June 9th, 2011 meeting of the Alternative Energy Committee

Attendees:

Richard Binns
Richard Bosse
John Donahue
Paul Savino
Joe Sangiovanni
Bill Hawkins

1. Public input

The committee received no public input.

2. Approval of April meeting minutes

The minutes for the April 20th meeting were approved.

3. Finalization of recommendation to Board of Selectmen on life cycle analysis

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Board of Selectman that life cycle analysis be done for future town building projects. The following wording was approved:

“The Suffield Alternative Energy Committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen that lifecycle analysis be incorporated in all building initiatives undertaken in town.”

The committee agreed to provide whatever assistance we could to town staff or the Selectman to train staff or work with vendors to make this practice routine.

4. Discussion of Proposed Wind Power Zoning Regulation

Bill Hawkins passed out copies of the proposed wind power zoning regulations, previously sent to members by email. The committee felt that the following detailed comments were minor tweaks and that Bill had done a good job putting together the proposed regulations.

Detailed discussion: There was some discussion about the 100 KW maximum output, but it was decided that was a reasonable starting point. Some concern was expressed that R25 lots couldn't meet the setback requirements of section 3. The committee asked Bill to review other towns' height limit and to reflect their experience.

Wording on minimizing flicker was deemed weak and some alternative wording was

suggested. The committee didn't think it was necessary to require a performance bond.

5. Update on town website discussion

Elaine O'Brien clarified that our minutes are being posted on the town web site. John will follow up with Tom Frenaye and Christine about opening a link for us to provide useful information to the town.

6. Discussion of Direct Energy

Richard Binns had provided information about Direct Energy's rate by email after the April 20, 2011 meeting. Their rate was 0.0879 per kWh then and has dropped to 0.0859 per kWh as of the meeting for a 12 month initial term.

Richard reported that Direct Energy is now willing to provide 100% green energy for that low rate, which would be the lowest green energy rate any of the committee members is aware of. Based on this fact, Richard agreed to put together a summary of this opportunity for the committee to pass along to the Selectman.

7. Review of action items

John follows up on web site.
Richard prepares Direct Energy summary.

8. Plan agenda for next meeting

Proposed agenda for July 14, 2011 meeting
Public input
Approval of minutes
Consider recommendation to town to use Direct Energy as the electrical generation source for our town
Request from Tom Frenaye for the committee to champion increased recycling
review action items
adjourn.

9. Adjourn