



Mason Planning Board

December 18, 2013

Approved

Attending

Pam Lassen (Chair), Mark McDonald (vice chair, secretary pro tem), Charlie Moser (ex-O), Louise Lavoie (A), Lee Ann Currier (A)

Absent

Dotsie Milbrandt, Jennifer DiNovo (NRPC), Linda Cotter-Cranston, Eric Anderson

Call to order

7:40 PM

Next Meeting

January 29, 2013

Old Business

New Business

Ms. Lavoie volunteers to drop off the plat for Alford Lieberman.

Mr. Moser will look for the LCHIP check.

The Board reviewed the proposed LWES wind ordinance. Mr. McGuire visited the meeting and offered these comments:

- When the blade of the propeller passes the tower, it makes a low hum called a reverberation. Mr. McGuire suggests that Section 5.c.ii should have a range from 0.315 hz through 800 hz or the lowest frequency measurable through conventional scientific equipment. Mr. Moser volunteers to craft the verbiage that includes this change.
- Part C1A – We should specify the color rather than suggesting a “non-obtrusive” color. We should also specify a matte finish.
- Part C3- Setbacks – Include a 3 x tower height factor for the setback radius to allow for the shadow for the northerly semicircle and 1.5 is enough for the southerly semicircle.

This radius is reasonable for towers sited on a flat prairie. However, for towers situated at the top of a hill, total height should be measured as the tower height plus the difference in elevation from the bottom of the tower and the elevation at the nearest property line.

- Part 5 – Sound pressure
- Action Item: Mr. Moser will ask Garth Fletcher to use his sound pressure monitor to come up with a number for ambient sound pressure in Mason.
- 6.a.ii. The projected traffic shall be less than 500 cars per day throughout the life of the project.
- Action Item – Ms. Lassen will ask Jennifer for language about bonding, including whether to incorporate Section G of New Ipswich’s ordinance regarding an escrow account. Must we require more than one form of payment per NH RSA?
- Part 4 Communications Interference – The LWES shall meet FCC part 15 Class B, radiated and conducted electromagnetic emissions limits.
- Rather than requiring self-reporting and providing 30-day advance notice to the operator, the Conservation Commission shall have the right to inspect the property without permission at any time for the purpose of identifying dead avian and bat species.
- Action Item: Mr. McGuire volunteers to research the fines, etc. in effect in California for dead avian and bat species.
- Comment from Mr. McGuire – Noise measurement can vary according to where the measurement is taken and the type of system (upwind or downwind). This can be deceiving and can be used to counter outside measurements that show a system to be more noisy than a vendor may want to acknowledge.
- F. Ongoing – Noise Complaints – Part 6 Subpart c. “dominating the acoustical environment”. Want to point out that tests in response to complaints should be conducted during times when the system is at peak noise levels and not under conditions that do not represent the complaint.
- Suggest adding wording to prohibit induction machines because they rotate in sync with the electric grid – they are faster, make more noise, and chop up more birds – rather than explicitly prohibiting any particular type of machine, limit the speed of rotation of the blades to 60 RPM (+/- 2%). Note: Better-designed systems today can include “reactive machines”, which have their own magnets to control the electricity and can therefore turn much slower.

The Planning Board reviewed the NRPC comments for Revision 3 along with Pam’s comments.

- New D.4 - No construction shall begin until all federal, state, and local requirements have been met and a building permit issued by the Town of Mason.

Adjourn

Lee Anne makes a motion to adjourn. Louise seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 10:50 PM.