

Groton Planning Board
January 30, 2013

Present: Deb Johnson, Chair Steve (Slim) Spafford, Celine Richer, Jenny Burnett, Dave Labar, Russ Carruth, Selectboard liaison Miles Sinclair, Sharon Nelson, Alternate/Clerk

Twelve audience members included EDP Renewables Project Manager Jeffrey Nemeth and Attorney Mark Beliveau.

Chairman called meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Chair then read letter from Attorney Beliveau on behalf of EDP Renewables requesting a continuance of Site Plan Review hearing from tonight to February 27, 2013 at same time and place. A second letter read by the Chair was from Windwatch's attorney Jason Reimers in which he stated no disagreement to the hearing being continued to Feb. 27th. Chair moved to grant the continuance of EDP's hearing from tonight to the Planning Board's next regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 27, 2013 at 7pm at the Town House. Russ 2nd motion. Miles spoke in favor of the motion because it was in the public interest to glean more information and also since the Windwatch lawyer seemed amenable to the continuance. All voted in favor of the motion. Chair noted that legally there is no need for abutters to be re-notified for February's hearing. However, Deb stated that she would prefer to have abutters notified again of the hearing for Feb. 27th. EDP agreed to do that. Bill Jolly expressed a desire to see notification to abutters exceed the legal time requirement and be mailed out ASAP. Jeff said that he will put mailing labels in mail by end of this week or beginning of next. Neal Delage, Hebron resident and abutter of proposed MET tower property asked if there was a way to have questions answered in advance of February's meeting. Mistrs Nemeth and Beliveau said they would be happy to answer questions outside the meeting room before leaving. Before Mr. Delage moved to the hallway with the EDP gentlemen, Deb Johnson expressed her opinion that there is a value in having questions of abutters brought to public meeting.

Minutes of Dec. 19, 2012 were read and accepted. Celine abstained as she had been absent. Miles asked who had told Town Counsel not to come to meeting tonight as had previously been planned. Chair said he'd made an executive decision after speaking with our town Administrative Assistant regarding EDP's request for a continuance.

Chair told Board of Petition he was submitting for a Warrant Article for Town Meeting that would designate Province Road to be a Scenic Road. Deb asked Miles for clarity in deadline for an Ordinance submission. She would like us to enact height restrictions in order to retain the town's rural/residential character. Miles said that any zoning changes must be on the town warrant and he expressed concern over any idea being pushed through without careful consideration.

Chair agreed to call LGC for answers to Deb's questions:

- Can a Zoning Ordinance be brought by petition?
- Must it be voted on by ballot or can it be by voice vote?

Questions came up concerning noncommercial wind turbines and as a result the board became aware that a Groton homeowner has been before the Selectmen concerning his project.

Chair reminded us that our Work Session on revision of the Master plan will be held on Feb. 13 from 7 - 9 pm.

Jenny moved for adjournment at 8:05 pm. Miles 2nd. All agreed.

Sharon Nelson
Clerk