

Town of Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee

May 20, 2010

Pete Maslyn
Royal Purdy
Dick McClurg
Jim Ochterski

Excused: Doug Payne, Jim Gray – each had provided comments to the proposed local laws related to wind turbines prior to the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:44 pm

For a large wind farm, most areas in the Town seem unsuitable for large wind energy farm development. But these local laws could play an important role in preventing problems if technology allows for a future wind energy development project. Discussion of possible sites, but none really seemed plausible.

On-site-use Wind Energy Systems proposed Local Law

The Agriculture Advisory Committee commends language used in Section 12 D regarding On-site-use wind energy systems at active farm operations. This will allow farms to adopt the technology as needed.

Section 12 B – It appears to restrict the ability of farms to sell excess unused energy to a grid utility (net metering). This should be clarified to allow excess energy to be produced and sold, especially if a farm engages in net metering.

Section 24 A Refers to a Building Permit prior to the decommissioning letter of intent; this clarified because it is not evident how a Building Permit would be appropriate at the early stage of decommissioning.

Section 24 E Current wording indicates that decommissioning funds be posted and maintained, which the Agriculture Advisory Committee supports. This bond may practically prove to be burdensome to farms since silos, grain bins, and other agriculture structures are similar in height but there are no such requirements.

WEFD Wind Energy Farm District regulations proposed Local Law

Discussed various provisions to clarify the meaning and real-life ramifications with no particular wording identified as being in need of change.

No other issues have come before the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Committee Vice-chair Jim Ochterski
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