

Village of Freeville Planning Board Minutes
Site Plan Application Review
Weaver Wind Energy, February 22, 2017

Present: Planning Board Chair Diane Eaton, Planning Board Member Tom Cavatio, and Jim Krebs, Mayor David Fogel, Trustee Miles McCarty, Village Residents Rose Borzik, Brandon James, Penny Beebe, Suzanne McMannis, Art, Lisa Buttner, Brian Buttner, WB Strong Fire Co. Howard Claflin Jr. Edania Hernandez Clerk.

Called to Order: Diane called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

A meeting called for site plan review Weaver Wind Energy request to build an approximate 115ft 15kwind tower at 7-9 Union Street, Freeville, NY.

Suzanne McMannis handed out a different set of packets. The packet presented three proposals. The first proposed the tower will be on the land behind 7-9 Union Street. Question of the right of way of land. The second, the tower will be able to be raised and lower from the gravel driveway. The third, on the property 100ft from neighbors house, opposite firehouse.

The following were questions and concerns raised by the village residents with responses they received:

What happens with ice buildup? High winds?

- The turbine has a sensor, which senses if the blades are unbalance, and shuts itself done. We do not expect ice buildup.
- The way we control our turbine is by actively moving the tail. Therefore, that in high winds the rotors turns itself out of the wind.

There are smaller versions of this turbine is in the field for several years.

Questions and concerns about property value the canopy of trees, don't want to see it.

What are the noise level and the frequency?

- The turbine rated at 45 decibels, which is the lowest level. You would hear displaced air between the trees but it would be of a constant character.
- The sound was a concern. That it may be annoying. At high wind, the maximum frequency would be 129 rpm that is at high wind. If there is no wind does not move.

Will there be any interference with radio frequency especially at the Fire Department?

- Not our turbine if they have metal in them then there is interference.

What are the effects of the flicker of the shadows on people?

- studies done regarding Flicker Phenomenon- no substantial disorder
- could be annoying but not connected to medical conditions

What is the safety concern if lightning strikes, especially close to the Fire Department?

- Lightning strikes will happen. Towers need to be properly grounded. When not properly grounded it will catch on fire. It may be strike by lightning.

Will it be a permanent installation? Will you take it with you if you decide to leave the area?

- It could be a permanent installation; and could be moved if deemed necessary.

Concern for the bird and bat population.

Research on birds is clear tend to avoid turbines. Bats are different, there may be an issue. Bat population is less common in the village.

Will this be the only tower?

- It will be just this one

Brian Buttner pointed out that looking at the three proposals and the scale of things, proposal two seems to be the one to lean aimed at.

What about safety concerns? Will the blades fly off?

- There is a micro-processor. If sensor senses it out of sort it will shut the machines down. There is no lubrication. Blades can fly at a considerable distance. We just hope it does not happen.

What about the character of the village? How will it benefit Freeville? Question if this is the place for it.

- Some people are not comfort with change, but some people accept solar panels.
- Residents can be proud of going green. If power goes out the turbine may be able to provide power. Hopefully, employ local residents. It may be a landmark one day.

What would be the timeline?

- Tower in the spring, wind turbine summer to late summer, plan to be up and running for the fall.

What is the drill for tornadoes?

- If there is enough time we would lower it because of the hydraulic hinges. It should take at least 15 minutes to lower.

Suzanne pointed out that wind is a number one resource a source of true energy, and its number 1 in job growth. Schools are leaning about wind energy. We care about the educational issues at Weaver Wind.

Diane asked David who owns the land, old railroad bed behind Weaver Wind. the village brought the right of way.

Can a date be set in which the Board of Trustees and village residents may be able to go see how one of these towers look like.

- Yeah we can visit one of two turbines close by. There is one in Trumansburg and Bostwick road in Ithaca. Suzanne will set up a date and send out an email with date and time.

This is an experimental turbine to get data from; it will not run all the time. One thing the turbine does it responds to weather warnings.

Findings: The Village Planning Board requests:

1. Plat that includes all neighboring structures with distances from the site of the tower; and
2. The final proposed pan. (Plan 1, 2, or 3). We suggest either plan 2 or 3 due to the question of ownership of the old railway bed.

Diane motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edania Hernandez