

## **TOWN OF DIXFIELD**

Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Special Windpower Meeting

September 9, 2009

5:00 p.m., Town Office

**Board Members Present:** Bettina M. Martin, Norine H. Clarke, James L. Desjardins, Raymond E. Carlton, Stephen G. Donahue

**Administration Present:** Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Calvin Beaumier (Code Enforcement Officer)

**Citizens Present:** Numerous

**Press:** Eileen Adams (Sun Journal), Amy Chapman (Rumford Falls Times)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Martin called the Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened with a statement concerning the purpose of this special meeting—that the meeting would be closed to public comment and that Selectmen needed to educate themselves about windpower and to decide the direction the Town of Dixfield wishes to pursue regarding windpower.

Chair Martin offered three (3) directions the Town could take:

- 1) Do nothing
- 2) Pass a moratorium ordinance
- 3) Form a committee to craft an ordinance for public hearing and vote.

Chair Martin allowed citizen Tom Powell to speak, as he had been invited to the previous Selectmen's meeting.

The Selectmen discussed the benefits of a moratorium, the effects of windpower on the Town and what could happen to our mountainsides because the Town lacked land use laws. Both the Town Manager and Code Enforcement Officer suggested it was too soon for a moratorium vote because the windmill project would take up to two (2) years to be approved and permits issued by the DEP. The idea of a subcommittee was discussed with the makeup of the committee being two (2) Selectmen, the CEO and the Town Manager.

2. **Windpower Ordinance Draft:** Mrs. Clark moved, seconded by Mr. Desjardins, to go forward with a town-wide vote on a moratorium for commercial windpower development and/or tall structures, whichever wording legally fits. Four Selectmen approved with Mr. Donahue abstaining.

3. **Other Business:** Chair Martin called for volunteers to be on an ad hoc windpower committee, with Selectmen Donahue and Clarke coming forward. Also appointed by Chair Martin were the CEO and the Town Manager.

4. **Next Regular Meeting:** So noted.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene R. Skibitsky  
Town Manager

/ers

Attachments