

Town of Somerset
Planning Board
March 7, 2019

Present: Norman Jansen, Chairman
Chris Czelusta
Krista Atwater
Laura Bishop
David Haylett, Counsel

Absent: Charles Neal

Attendance: 14 residents, Councilman Hotaling, Councilwoman Bronson,
Paul Williamson of APEX

Chairman Jansen called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

APEX Met Tower Report

Paul Williamson, representative of APEX, produced the bi annual met tower report, which is a summary of all the statistics for the met towers for 2018. The towers located on the Eggert property and the tower located on the Lyndaker property. The back side of the report shows the location of the two towers. Also on the map you can see the preliminary layout that we provided publicly in October that shows the preliminary study we're working with for the turbine locations. Quick summary of the wind data: you'll notice that for the most part the wind speeds are relatively uniform throughout the year at both locations. You'll see very small variation in wind speed and wind directions. The spring and winter tend to be strongest wind speed. Fall tends to be the slowest wind speed and wind direction seems to be pretty constant through the year except for the fall it switches from predominate direction S-SW and in the fall changes a little bit in a westerly direction. Other than that there's really not a whole lot to note. It's relatively uniform to the previous reports that you've received from Taylor Quarles. Chairman Jansen noted that the Nellist met towers were not on the report. Paul Williamson stated that Nellist wasn't part of that permit and there's no requirement that we provide reporting on that. So we never have, but if you'd like to see that data I could certainly provide that. Chairman Jansen stated that they certainly would like to see that. Krista Atwater stated that they'd always

received a report about the tower, not as extensive, but they've gotten a report. Mr. Williamson stated the he overlooked that and he'd be glad to go back and pull that data out and send it to the board. Chairman Jansen asked if the fencing was still around the Lyndaker guide wires. Mr. Williamson stated that he checked it the third week of January and it was all standing at that time. Krista Atwater asked that not only it be checked, but there are instructions for the met towers, they are supposed to be checked after high wind storms and we have had repeated high wind storms in the last 6 weeks. Mr. Williamson stated that he would schedule an inspection. Krista Atwater stated now only the lines needed to be inspected, but also the condition of the tower. The manual states they are to be checked after wind and ice storms. Mr. Williamson stated that their sensors showed no adverse performance at all from the actual met towers themselves, and some include disability of the tower. Chairman Jansen asked how often the sensor submits a report and Mr. Williamson stated he would check with their resource manager and get back to us. Chairman Jansen requested that Mr. Williamson contact Mark Remington, Code Enforcement Officer, and look over all 3 towers and the fencing. Chairman Jansen asked what level to the ground are the reports and Williamson stated he believed they were from 20 meter heights. Chairman Jansen asked if they could get the information on the towers to full height. Mr. Williamson stated that was considered proprietary information at the higher elevations, as that information is relatively valuable. Other wind development companies could be interested in that information. Krista Atwater stated that when APEX originally put up the towers, it was stated that the life span of the towers was 3 years. The Nellist tower has been up exceeding 3 years. Is there any chance of that coming down? Mr. Williamson stated that the towers have a lifespan of well over 3 years, but typically we permit them for 3 year periods and then renew. The towers are dropped periodically for service needs. Usually those service needs are indicated by the sensors. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Jansen asked Mr. Williamson if he would be willing to take a question from a resident, and he stated yes. Mr. Richard Ray stated that prior to the Somerset Power Station being built, he was hired as a private contractor to inspect power down at the plant and one on Morrison Road. At that time they

had 2 full time people that checked the towers daily. He checked the towers twice a week and wrote a report to NYSEG for those towers. I get an impression from what I'm hearing that the representative is not very aware of condition, has done very little to check and there are concerns by people on this board and in this community as to the safety, liability, fencing and what have you. I've seen and heard answers here that do not seem to represent what is known about this commission and I'm concerned about this. I'm concerned that this is precedence for what we're going to see in the future with things not being checked, sending out representatives that can't represent, do not have knowledge of, or can speak to concerns. That's my point. Mr. Williamson: to the best of my ability I've provided reports to the town. I've conducted 3 inspections of the towers and the fencing. They've all been in good condition. To your request, I'd be happy to connect with the code enforcement officer and go on a joint inspection with him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Krista Atwater, seconded by Chris Czelusta, the following resolution was ADOPTED

Ayes	4	Jansen, Atwater, Czelusta, Bishop
Nays	0	

Resolved the minutes of the January 3, 2019 meeting are accepted as submitted.

Communications: No communications.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT RENEWALS:

Town Councilman Hotaling stated that the major permit in question is the Miller permit on Townline Road. He needs to be followed up under said conditions by the Code Enforcement Officer. To my knowledge he has not followed the conditions.

Krista Atwater questioned the parking at Donovan Orchards.

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Chairman Jansen asked if all responses had been returned. There were a total of 7 that had not been returned. Attorney Haylett requested that new notices to be sent, certified mail, return receipt. All special use permits that have been returned by mail are renewed.

On motion of Chris Czelusta and second by Krista Atwater, the special use permits that have been returned by mail are hereby renewed.

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Jansen, Atwater, Czelusta, Neal
	Nayes	0	

Resolved, the special use permits that have been returned by mail are hereby renewed.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN: At the last meeting Krista Atwater was nominated as the Vice Chairman of the Planning Board but was not voted on. Chairman Jansen renominates Krista Atwater as Vice Chairman. Second by Chris Czelusta.

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Jansen, Bishop, Czelusta, Atwater
	Nayes	0	

Resolved, Krista Atwater is the Vice Chairman of the Planning Board.

The next board meeting will be April 4th, 2019 unless no business is deemed necessary.

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There being no further business, Chris Czelusta moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm, seconded by Laura Bishop. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda F. Austin

Planning Board Secretary