

APPROVED MNUTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING
Held February 21, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

A public meeting was held February 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and all Council present also Ron Flynn, Henry Wallace, Ray Millman, Peggy Riley, Marvin Riley, Robert Carruthers, Allan Pridham, Ken Graham, Allan Gaudet, Mansfield Butler, Floyd Handrahan, Wendell Weeks, Erma Weeks, Wilson Corrigan, Robert Leard, Erkki Pohjolainen, Tulla Pohjolainen, Fred Richard, Eric McCarthy- Journal and Jean Kenny – Graphic.

Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order and asked for public input on adopting the provincial regulations to allow wind energy towers on private property or the other option is to not allow windmills at all in town.

Ron Flynn thanked everybody for coming out and said that his windmill project is near and dear to his heart. He said he dug up a lot of information on wind towers and he said his lot meets the provincial guidelines. He said he wants to get a used Jacobs wind turbine for home use, the blades are thirteen feet and weigh fifty pounds, made of fibre glass and the noise factor is very small, 55 decibels, which is like a fridge. He said they couldn't spring up all over town because the provincial guidelines say you have to be three tower lengths from your neighbour. He said this a small windmill compared to North Cape sort of like comparing a bicycle to a tractor-trailer. He said North Cape has some of the largest ones on the Atlantic coast and you can go and eat at the restaurant and not be disturbed by the sound.

Councillor Curtis asked what was the width of his lot. Ron Flynn said 166 feet.

Councillor Cutis said that according to his math it did not meet the regulations because it is the arc plus the tower.

Ron Flynn said the eighty feet included the arc and tower.

Floyd Handrahan asked what size it was compared to the tower Jimmy Doucette has.

Ron Flynn said Jimmy Doucette's was 40 kw and had an eighty-foot tower with wing span on top of that and it is more than twice as big as his.

Ron Flynn said the reason he wants a windmill is that during the pesticide and water problem he very proactive and said he has his own little garden and in the Kyoto report and trying to cut down on pollution that wind energy is the only way. He said unlike burning oil that wind is totally renewable and he said he was putting a lot of money and effort into it. He said that with net metering he does not get any back from Maritime Electric and he could generate as much as four houses would use. He also said it would be a good idea for the town to put some up by the shore for the lights and hydro in town.

Councillor Gillis said that Gerald O'Meara was here before the meeting and he is thinking about putting one up behind his place down the road.

Robert Leard said the only thing he could see with this is that they would be opening it up to windmills all over the community and he disagreed with the decibel level.

Bradley Kinch arrived at the meeting and presented Council with a petition with twenty-six names on it opposed to personal windmills being erected in the town of Alberton.

Ray Millman asked if the people's names were taxpayers in the town of Alberton.

Erkki Pohjolainen offered support for windmills and said it was ironic to discuss something of this magnitude when people can switch on diesel generators for power backup anywhere in town.

Peggy Riley said that she was not concerned against windmills and said that she is concerned about town council going on the map again and turning something down. She said she supports this and she said there is not enough people in town with property to put windmills up just anywhere and she said for us not to be the laughing stock.

Bradley Kinch said he was for windmills too but he is for the town and everybody in the town should be taking something out of it and not just for one person and he is for that one hundred percent.

Erma Weeks said there was not much land and how much would there have to be for everybody to get a share.

Bradley Kinch said he wants it done right. He does not want them popping up here there and everywhere.

Ron Flynn said that if you follow the provincial regulations you could only put it where the land allows.

Bradley Kinch said he understood that but at the same time he did not want them popping up everywhere. He said he would like to see more consideration and said he does not think it is right. He doesn't want the value of his house dropping because someone put up a windmill. He said he doesn't have water or sewer now and he doesn't want someone to put a windmill beside him and drop his property even less.

Ron Flynn said there was never any proof of property dropping in value.

Wilson Corrigan said windmills were a good idea and he said he already had a tower on his street anyway.

Floyd Handrahan said he was not notified when Aliant put the tower up near his property.

Wendell Weeks said there were more signals in and out of that Aliant tower than there would be in Ron's tower. He asked if they were prepared to take the other tower out of the town.

Bradley Kinch said the other tower serviced outside of Alberton and that this was private and if he wanted to put a private thing up for a phone.

Ron Flynn said there was a private windmill up in Charlottetown.

Bradley Kinch asked if it was one individual.

Wendell Weeks said he was in Charlottetown the other day and he saw a wind tower owned by Superior Sanitation right by the side of their shop and he told Bradley he could take a drive to Charlottetown and see it.

Bradley Kinch said Superior Sanitation probably provided 150 jobs.

Allan Gaudet asked how much research town council did.

Councillor Gillis said he downloaded a lot of information off the Internet and it is green power.

Bradley Kinch said he thinks it is great to have windmills but would like the town to have a specific place to put it up and he said it is not right for one individual to benefit that has enough land to benefit.

Councillor Curtis said he had done quite a bit of research into wind energy and he said one gray area was sound levels and he didn't know the DVA sound scale. He said that the sound level of 66 outside in certain cases would not be more than the wind rustling in the trees but the same sound level could be much more noisier like the banging of a drum or

lawnmower. He said the DVA level is a purely scientific measurement taken at a certain distance from the source and it says nothing about how noisy it is to the ears. He said it is very subjective and now wind turbines and air crafts make a lot less noise but quoting a number is fairly irrelevant and you have to hear it in action.

Bradley Kinch said the benefit would be to very few in Alberton and then to have to put up with a very few that has it and any that don't that is what he is concerned with.

Councillor Curtis said we have an international wind expert in town.

Bradley Kinch said that more study should be done because if you allow one you have to allow more. He said that if Ron does it you have to consider if you want them popping up all over the place.

Erma Weeks said that she would like to see that because she loves the look of windmills.

Bradley Kinch said he wants to see everyone and not just a few that can afford it.

Ron Flynn said that was the same as someone building a three-car garage and going to town council and saying I haven't got a three-car garage so you can't get it.

Bradley Kinch said he has to listen to the noise, look at it and also be worried that the blades might blow off.

Floyd Handrahan said there were four dogs barking on his street all the time and he has to listen to them.

Bradley Kinch said a McInnis man was up fishing on the fall side off the reef and one got lose and blew over their boat.

Wendell Weeks said he was not one bit scared.

Peggy Riley said life is dangerous.

Bradley Kinch said he was not trying to knock Ron but that the community should benefit and even if you have enough money you can't do it because you don't have enough land.

Wendell Weeks said he would have one if he had enough land. Erma Weeks said or enough money.

Wilson Corrigan asked if the people that signed the petition said why they were opposed to wind energy.

Robert Leard said it is progress but his only concern is about sound and there could be some going up next to him. He said the noise factor should be addressed.

Ron Flynn said are you going to outlaw lawn mowers, whiper snipers and tractors.

Floyd Handrahan said windmills do not go twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.

Councillor Gillis said that if it was no louder than background noise in the house. He said that if you sit in the house and listen you could distinguish the sound but it is no more than a truck going down the road. He said that the material he found on the Internet stated that you would be hard pressed to hear it in the house under normal operating conditions.

Peggy Riley asked what about the noise of the air conditioner at the museum.

Floyd Hanrdahan said to ask Carl Brothers.

Marvin Riley said this tower was not as high as Halupa's.

Bradley Kinch said he is not against Ron it is just that he doesn't want the next fellow, or the next fellow to get one.

Peggy Riley asked how many people he really thought would get them.

Bradley Kinch said a lot people own a lot of land. He said that he is looking after his younger crowd coming up and will they have to put up with windmills all over the place.

Peggy Riley asked how many people he thought had enough land.

Bradley Kinch said probably twenty-five to thirty.

Robert Carruthers said they were going to get both sides, he agrees with Mr. Leard and a cooperative and setting aside one section of the town and putting them together, he said he agreed with Ron and he agrees with Mr. Kinch and wondered if council would be damned if they do and damned if they don't. He said that he could see that if had an area where each person could feed into the grid.

Councillor Curtis said that he researched it and you can not have a cooperative where everybody gets paid back according to how much you dump into the grid, he said it doesn't work like that and it has to be set up as a public utility within the town.

Bradley Kinch said that he did not think it was right that the petition could be passed around and when you go to vote in an election nobody can see.

Ray Millman asked if the petition was sitting in an establishment in Alberton for people to sign and read.

Bradley Kinch said that people he met on the street signed it.

Erma Weeks asked how many of those people are in town.

Peggy Riley said council would make the decision and she hoped it would be a wise one. She said if it was turned down that they would have to check the museum.

Erkki Pohjolainen asked what was whitened out on the petition. He said two words were whitened and it looked like the letter "L" in the second word.

Bradley said the name of the party was Ron's and he said he didn't think it was right to Ron to name him and he thought somebody might say something.

Peggy Riley said for instance, if her name were on there she would not mind everyone knowing if she signed a petition. She told Bradley not to worry about people knowing who is on it because most petitions are open.

Allan Gaudet asked how much thought council gave to this and are they prepared to vote on it.

Mayor Murphy said that is why we deferred the original vote on the original application so that we could get more information and more public input. He said that we did have the first public meeting but council thought it was a little vague the secondary item on the agenda was just defined as wind energy so council decided to have the second public meeting before we made a decision.

Allan Gaudet said they should check it out a little more and the noise level go to North Cape and talk to the people and there is a lot of noise and do you want them popping up all over town.

Bradley Kinch said he just does not want them popping up all over town and if all the citizens were benefiting and not to pick on Ron.

Councillor Gillis said that technology has come a long way and the ones that were built back in the 1970's and 1980's were a lot noisier.

Ron Flynn said the one he is putting up the blades are only fifty pounds.

Bradley Kinch asked what if the wing went through Floyd's window and cut Floyd's head off and and what kind of insurance coverage would Floyd's wife get.

Ron Flynn said he has liability insurance but he is not an insurance agent.

Bradley Kinch asked again what kind of insurance does he have.

Ron Flynn said you could not award on what is not known.

Bradley Kinch asked again what kind of insurance he had.

Peggy Riley asked if we were having a meeting here or a discussion between two people. Bradley Kinch asked if they would be going after the town that was what he was trying to get at.

Mayor Murphy said the insurance concern would be up to the property owner. He said that if council accepts the provincial regulations they would have their own insurance.

Erma Weeks said that according to this he does meet the criteria of the province.

Peggy Riley said she recommended that they do adopt them and be in the forerunning that maybe other communities will follow.

Erma Weeks said we may be all looking for cheaper power before too long.

A vote was taken 14 hands were raised for yes to adopt the provincial regulations and one hand was raised not to adopt the provincial regulations.

Councillor Curtis said that with all due respect what the public showed as support is irrelevant.

Peggy Riley said that we understand that you fellows are running the town but we are just saying think wisely and don't put us as a laughing stock again.

Ken Graham asked what if Western Hospital wanted to put a fan in for a generator.

Ray Millman said if you want to ask someone about noise level ask Mrs. Shirley Murphy about the fan at the warehouse and he said he could hear it at his house.

Mayor Murphy said they would weigh the concerns and thoughts and the meeting was adjourned.