

## **WEST TISBURY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES MARCH 3, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Ginny Jones, Susan Silva, Leah Smith, Bea Phear

**ABSENT:** David Douglas, Jim Powell

**OTHERS:** Mark London, Doug Sederholm, Brian Smith, Bill Veno, Christine Flynn, Simone DeSorcy

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MVC Issues:** Board members met with MVC Commissioners and staff to discuss several issues.

**Master Plan:** Ginny said that for years the Board had been asking the MVC for help in writing particular sections of the Master Plan, including the business district, economic development and population data. Mark London said that now that the Island Plan is finished, they would have some time and can extract some data from that. Bill Veno will help write a questionnaire to be distributed to Townspeople. Christine Flynn said that U.S. Census data will be coming in over the next year.

**DRI Checklist:** Ginny distributed the letter the Board wrote to the MVC containing comments on the current DRI checklist which is undergoing review. Doug Sederholm asked why members thought discretionary review should be eliminated, as it offers flexibility for towns. Bea said eliminating it would reduce ambiguity; it is unfair to potential developers. She said she prefers clarity. She said she found the whole concept of discretion troublesome, and it should be eliminated as much as possible. Doug Sederholm said it helps a town when it doesn't have regulatory authority and gives the public the opportunity to review an issue. Mark London said he prefers informed judgment.

**Wind Turbine Model Regulations:** Doug Sederholm said that a workgroup of commissioners and staff had prepared these model regulations for planning boards' consideration. He said they are a useful tool, and the MVC is hoping for uniformity in regulating turbines, especially off-shore. Mark London said that the attitude in Massachusetts regarding turbines has shifted over the last two years. Communities are not as gung-ho, having experienced negative impacts such as noise. He said that the State noise standard, 10 decibels above background sound, is not adequate for turbines. Instead, the limit in the model regs. is 5 decibels above background. It was noted that West Tisbury's bylaw uses the State's standard.

Mark London said that Rhode Island is focusing its turbine locations on State and federal waters (State waters go to 3 miles out from shore). It doesn't make sense to have turbines so close to shore as the steadier winds are offshore, where turbines have less impact. He said the MVC is doing a wind energy plan that will be an appendix to the regulations prepared now.

Mark London said the turbine DCPC is the airspace 150 feet and above. The regulations, however, identify areas of special concern where all turbines would have to receive MVC review. He said no town on the island will be adopting these regulations this spring.

**WEST TISBURY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES MARCH 3, 2011 p. 2 of 2**

Doug Sederholm said that the MVC could extend the sunset clause. It was discussed that the Planning Board could add some of the model regulations to its existing bylaw, perhaps regulating turbines within State waters, and adopting more stringent sound regulations. Bea suggested reconvening our Wind Turbine Committee to recommend what should be amended. All thought that was a good idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Simone DeSorcy, Board Administrator

**Approved 4/11/11**