

DRAFT
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, August 27, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Richard Knabel, Dianne Powers, Jen Rand

Guests: Kelly Wilson, Sander Shapiro, Suzy Wasserman, Phyllis Meras, Paddy Moore, Bruce Stone, Tony Nevin, Barbara Day, B. Potts, C. Riggs, J. Hickey

Minutes: *R. Knabel motioned to approve the minutes of 8/6/08 with clarifications. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Wind Turbines: Sander Shapiro said he was concerned about the potential for proliferation of small affordable turbines that are not terribly efficient. He said the island runs the risk of looking like it did in 1950 with tv antennas. He suggested the town work with the other island towns to develop cooperative larger commercial turbines. He wanted the Board to know he was speaking in favor of wind power in general, and not speaking on behalf of the Energy Committee, of which he is a part. Jen was asked to inquire of the Planning Board what their schedule was for looking at this matter, as they plan to do so.

Sex Offender Bylaw: Dianne said she had concerns about the bylaw in its current form, if we go forward she would like to look into including elderly housing, bus stops, and places of worship. She also said she didn't think that 1.5 miles was an appropriate buffer, but she didn't know what would be the right distance. Richard asked if the town needed the bylaw at all. He said the presentation three weeks prior had been dramatic but wasn't sure that experience dictated a need for this. He said he would need a clear understanding of what the problem is and if it would address the problem. He wanted these answers prior to spending town money for legal review. Skipper said that perhaps the bylaw was a preventative measure versus a problem solving measure. Richard said he needed proof of that in hard statistics not anecdotal evidence. Skipper said ultimately the voters would decide if they thought the bylaw was good for West Tisbury, but he wanted Counsel to review the draft and help create something that would past muster so when the Board got public input everyone would be talking about the same thing, and there would not be questions about if the bylaw needed to be changed for legal reasons. Barbara Day said there must be a better way to handle this because the bylaw was going to prohibit sex offenders from living in town and that wasn't appropriate. She thought better that the Police Department work with the schools and Councils on Aging to educate people about safety. Suzie Wasserman said she was concerned that this was the thing that West Tisbury was spending resources on, and she wasn't sure it was needed, but if the Board went forward it should be sure to have the bylaw vetted by Counsel. Cynthia Riggs said this would only address a small number of sexual predators. Paddy Moore said she had done a lot of research in this matter and this bylaw would only address about 3% of the offenders and the research does not show a high level of repeat offenders. Diane said she wanted to send this to counsel to know what exactly the language of this bylaw would or could be so that everyone would then know what they would be talking about. Skipper agreed. Richard said if this was a problem at all then it is an island-wide problem that needs an island wide solution. Dianne suggested waiting to take further action until after the meeting of the All-Island BOS in October. If the other towns all wanted to join then perhaps the cost of Counsel review would be shared.