

Swanton Planning Commission

August 12, 2015

Town Plans and Renewable Energy

- The Town Plan is the Town's Voice to the PSB
- Town Plans Must be Specific and Consistent in order to be considered in the regulatory process
- Town Plan Update for Renewable Energy Should Seek Maximum Public Engagement. "Get As Much Input from Residents as Possible"
- Town Plans Supported by a Vote sends the clearest message to the PSB
- The Report Matters (see recent decision in lawsuit against Newark), which discusses the issue of changing land designation.
- Recent decision clarifies that town plans may contain strong language prohibiting specific technologies
- The Town Planning process has multiple benefits especially when it is being updated to address specific proposals. Public engagement increases, the document itself incorporates the community's vision, a follow-up vote in support of the town plan sends the clearest message to developers and regulators.

The PSB Process

- Receipt of 45 day notice is opportunity for the town PC and SB to hold public hearings and take input to provide to the developer
- Receipt of filing is a second opportunity for the PC and SB to comment to the PSB
- Town PC and SB can intervene at the PSB by filing a Motion to Intervene, Certificate of Service, Cover Letter. Intervenors can represent themselves *pro se* without attorney. Towns usually an attorney. Residents usually cannot afford to participate with a lawyer.

Resources

Town Plans that Address Industrial Wind

Brighton - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=21>

Castleton - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=14

Charleston - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=40>

Clarendon - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=19

Hubbardton - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=6

Ira - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=18

Kirby - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=6>

Londonderry - <http://windhamregional.org/towns/londonderry>

Newark - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=8>

Pittsford - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=7

Poultney - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=17

Stannard - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=13>

Sutton - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=14>

Waitsfield - <http://www.waitsfieldvt.us/townplan/index.cfm>

West Rutland - http://rutlandrpc.org/t.php?town_id=13

Westmore - <http://www.nvda.net/towns.php?town=54>

Windham - <http://windhamregional.org/towns/windham>

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Regional Plan that Addresses Renewable Energy

<http://rutlandrpc.org/rutlandregionalplan.php>

www.nvda.net

The NVDA Wind Study

The NVDA Wind Study Committee was formed in response to the NVDA Board of Directors July 2012 adoption of a resolution recommending a suspension of industrial-scale (height of 200 ft. or greater) wind turbines for a 3-year period for further study. At the March 26, 2015 meeting of the full Board of Directors, members unanimously approved the committee's recommendation that "no further development of industrial-scale wind turbines should take place in the Northeast Kingdom. This position will become an element in the NVDA regional energy plan. The position may be revised for future plans if our understanding of turbine impacts changes significantly." (The final Wind Study Report is available below)

Committee members include: Jim Greenwood (Chair), Mark Whitworth, Farley Brown, Robert Croteau, and David Snedeker (NVDA staff). The Committee meets at the Barton Town Office approximately every three weeks. Please contact NVDA to check on upcoming meetings. Meeting minutes will be posted soon.

Meeting schedule:

2/20/13, 6:00pm Barton Town Office **Minutes**

3/13/13, 6:00pm Barton Town Office **Minutes**

4/03/13, 6:30pm Barton Town Office (guest: Dave Hallquist, VEC) **Minutes**

4/24/13, 6:30pm Barton Town Office (guest: Billy Coster, ANR) **Minutes**

5/08/13, 6:30pm Barton Town Office (guest: Anne Margolis, PSD) **Minutes**

5/29/13, 6:30pm Barton Village Community Center(guest: John Soinen, Eolian) **Minutes**

Eolian Presentation

8/14/13 at 7:00pm at the Barton Town Office (guest: Kerrick Johnson, VELCO) VELCO -

Interconnecting Wind NVT, VELCO - System Reliability Renewable Generation Minutes

9/4/13 at 6:30 at the Barton Town Office. (guest Kevin Jones, VT Law School and Steve Therrien) **Minutes**

9/26/13, 6:30pm at the Barton Town Office. (Guests: Robt. Dostis, GMP; Jason Shafer, LSC) **Health Effects - Peer Review Lit_KCW, KWC Fact Sheet, JShafer WindResource Presentation, Minutes**

11/06/13, 6:30pm at the Barton Town Office. (Guest: Dr. David Grass, VT Dept. of Health) **Minutes, Health Reviewed Lit.,Infrasound report, Fall Testing Rpt., Winter Testing Rpt.**

1/6/14 (Guest: Gloria Bruce, NEKTTA) 9am at NVDA Office in St. Johnsbury **Minutes**

1/29/14, 6:30pm, at the Barton Town Office. (Guest: Ben Luce) **Minutes**
Antrim Wind Avoided Emissions Report, Renewable Energy Options

Wind Study - Draft Report - Attachment A, Attachment B, Attachment C, Attachment D, Attachment E, Attachment F

Wind Study - Draft Report August 21, 2014 (amended January 22, 2015)

Wind Study - Final Report March 27, 2015

Town Wide Votes

		Against Wind	For Wind	
May-05	Sheffield	93	120	to continue to explore the wind project
Mar-10	Lowell	114	342	in favor
Mar-06	Readsboro	31	191	to allow expansion of the existing 11 turbine array
Jan-2007	Barton	160	-	to oppose Sheffield Wind
Mar-2007	Sutton	120	23	to oppose Sheffield Wind
Mar-2006	Londonderry	425	213	to oppose wind turbines on Glebe Mountain
Mar-2006	Manchester	62	60	not to support wind turbines on Little Equinox Moun
Dec-2007	Wilmington	51	15	to oppose the Searsburg expansion, also known as [
Mar-2010	Ira	80	29	to support town plan that prohibits wind turbines o
Sep-2012	Newark	169	59	to support town plan that opposes wind turbines or
Sep-2012	Hubbardton	94	6	to oppose commercial ridgeline wind development
Oct-2012	Brighton	544	320	against the Seneca Mountain wind project
Nov-2013	Eden	74	51	against the BNE wind project
Dec-2013	UTG	171	107	against SMW
	Total	2,188	1,536	
		59%	41%	