

# Portland Township Planning Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Mark Simon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll was taken by Sue Van Lente.

Present: Mark Simon, Geri Simon, Sue Van Lente, Julius Platte, Clyde Woodman, Bill Vallier, Bill Manning

Absent: Kami Brown, Ron Carleton

Guests: Jeanne Vandersloot, Jerry Tiemann, Ken Wieber, Rob Currie, Deb Schafer, Laureen Simon, Deb Pung, Kevin Simon

Minutes of the May 2010 meeting were read and accepted. Motion by Julius Platte, seconded by Mark Simon to approve. All were in favor.

## Old Business:

**Wind Energy Conversion (WEC) Systems**---Jeanne provided a final copy of the WEC ordinance, however before approving it, members listened to reports from Ken Wieber and Rob Curry from the Clinton County Wind Watch, who did extensive research into WECS when Clinton County was writing their ordinance.

The men found many good things within the proposed ordinance, however they recommended that consideration be given to the following changes, most of which would apply to commercial turbines:

1. Write two separate ordinances to cover smaller personal turbines and large commercial turbines.
2. State setbacks to apply from property lines, not residences, and to allow for waivers from property owners.
3. Set day (45 dB) and night (35 dB) noise limitations.
4. Increase setbacks to 2500' or use a height multiplier: 7 1/2 - 8 times the height.
5. State that shadow flicker should be 0 on neighboring property line.
6. Require cash bonds as a protection from abandonment, and require an emergency service plan.
7. Control height.
8. Require noise certification to come from state-certified acoustics engineers. If a noise complaint arises, the developer must pay for a noise study, and the township is allowed to choose who does the study.
9. "Abandonment" needs to be better defined. There should be proof that the WECS will be hooked to a grid.
10. Need to better address MET Towers (Testing facilities).
11. Include a section that references and explains why certain requirements were written: i.e. noise, safety, etc.

Additional recommendations included taking into consideration bald eagle flyways and feeding areas; banning WECS from state owned land; considering nesting areas and migratory bird routes. The men also recommended that a good ordinance to use for educational purposes is one from Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin.

Mr. Rick James at 517-230-5917 is a professional engineer and can be hired for noise complaint checks.

After listening to the lengthy reports, the commission members tabled approval of the WECS ordinance, and agreed to spend some additional time discussing the recommendations.

Motion by Mark Simon, seconded by Geri Simon to recommend that the Township Board place a moratorium on any new WECS construction until the ordinance is finalized. The Planning Commission will make the ordinance a priority at the next meeting in August, and attempt to have a final ordinance done yet this year.

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments:** None.

**Future Meetings:**

The next regular meeting will be held on August 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Mark Simon, seconded by Bill Vallier to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All were in favor.

*Respectfully submitted by Sue Van Lente, Secretary.*