

## **Wind Information Committee**

### **Select Board & Planning Commission Questions**

1. Will Grafton residents have a voice in the decision to build or not to build?
  - Submitted to the Select Board only.
2. Neither of the towns of Grafton or Windham have any zoning in place to control growth because the residents do not want to be told what they can do their own land. But these same people seem to feel self-empowered to tell other people what they can and cannot do with their land. If they want to fully control what happens in their town enact zoning and get on with life. Living in a town without zoning is a crap shoot with the hope that no one opens up a pig farm, commercial vehicle repair, or some type of alternative energy, or for that matter any form of energy production whether it be wind, solar, hydro, or nuclear in your back yard. Everyone wants to have energy, but no one wants to see it, smell it, hear it, flood river valleys or split atoms to get it, but as long as it is in someone else's back yard that seems to be OK. At a select board meeting a couple of weeks ago a question was asked of the board about the antenna system that was being installed behind the Nature Museum. The answer was they did not know exactly what it was, but it was on private land and the town / select board had no authority to question or deny the construction of it. This seems to follow the premise of no zoning very well. But on the other hand a private land owner wants to install an alternative energy system on 5,000 acres of forest land, and most of the board and many other individuals are dead set against it, and will do whatever possible to stop it. That's fine, but without zoning, remember the crap shoot scenario, no zoning no control. So the question is: with all the above "BS" being said it boils down to this. How does "zoning" affect or not affect the wind project proposed for the Towns of Grafton and Windham?

### **Questions for Iberdrola**

1. If you place turbines in the Grafton section of MTL's property, will you put them on the mountaintops? In mountainous topography with steep slopes and narrow valleys, like this property, do you ever place turbines in the valleys? If so, where have you done this?
2. There is a high density of people who live close to potential turbine sites in Grafton, Windham, Townshend, Jamaica, and Athens. How often have you built large wind-turbine complexes in areas with this much human density? Given the damage forcing these complexes in close to people causes to the social fabric of the community, property values, and human

health, why wouldn't you avoid these types of sites in favor of ones that are far away from people?

3. How visible will the turbines be in Grafton? For example, will you be able to see them from Grafton Village, Chester Hill, the Grafton Ponds ski trails, or Fisher Hill? How visible will they be in surrounding towns? How about Jamaica, for example?
4. In Grafton and Townshend, the people on the Townshend Road south of Grafton Village will be more vulnerable to infrasound than anybody else. This is because of their proximity to potential turbines sites in Grafton, and their location downwind of these sites and the prevailing, westerly winds. How many houses are on that road within two miles of the nearest potential turbine site?
5. Assuming you did not use the MTL property in Windham, would you consider building a turbine complex just on their Grafton property?
6. Approximate number of turbines?
7. Approximate number of turbines in each of the towns?
8. Approximate height of the turbines?
9. Approximate height to the tip of the blades?
10. Approximate number of full time jobs involved in construction including site preparation?
11. Approximate number of part time jobs involved in construction including site preparation?
12. What are the different type of jobs and their approximate numbers?
13. Approximate duration for each type of job?
14. Which jobs can be hired out to local contractors?
15. How many full time jobs for site maintenance, etc. once turbines are up and running?
16. How many part time jobs for site maintenance, etc. once turbines are up and running?
17. Approximate amount of soil, etc. that will be removed?
18. Approximate amount of concrete, etc. that will be put in place for the project?

19. Approximate amount of the “carbon footprint” from the turbine manufacture, construction, transportation, and any other sources for the project?
20. Approximate number of years before this “carbon footprint” will be “paid off” by the energy produced by the project?
21. Will Grafton residents have statistics of the final test results regarding power output?
22. How far out will this be projected (5, 10, 15+ years) taking into consideration ongoing climate changes?
23. What happens to towers if, in the future, they are not economically feasible?
24. Will Iberdrola honor the majority vote?
25. Would Iberdrola be open to an assessment by an independent agency on the impact of wind turbine development on wildlife, soils and plants?
26. It’s been estimated that the Grafton Property Tax would be reduced by the following amounts if the project is built: approximately \$94 per year for a property assessed at \$100,000; approximately \$188 per year for a property assessed at \$200,000; approximately \$282 per year for a property assessed at \$300,000; etc. Property owners with less than \$47,000 annual income may receive no property tax reduction at all. In general, those with the highest assessed property values would receive the largest reduction in property tax. Is this what you would expect as well and are these figured (figures) reasonable?

### **Questions for Iberdrola & MTL**

1. Who has the final say on whether your proposed wind development on MTL property will be posted against trespassers? How many of your other wind developments are posted? Are all of them?
2. Innumerable properties near industrial wind turbines (IWTs) around the world have lost much of their value because of this proximity. Thousands of people around the world who live near IWTs have also gotten sick with the same symptoms because of exposure to infrasound produced by these turbines. If people in Grafton lose all or most of their property values, or worse, get sick from infrasound generated by your turbines, will you be there to cover their financial losses, help with their medical expenses, and find them new places to live?
3. How many acres in the proposed project?
4. How many acres in the Town of Windham?

5. How many acres in the Town of Grafton?
6. How many acres in other towns?
7. How many residential dwellings within one-half mile of the property boundaries?
8. How many of these are in the Town of Windham?
9. How many of these are in the Town of Grafton?
10. How many residential dwellings within one mile of the property boundaries?
11. How many of these are in the Town of Windham?
12. How many of these are in the Town of Grafton?
13. How many residential dwellings within one and a half miles of the property boundaries?
14. How many of these are in the Town of Windham?
15. How many of these are in the Town of Grafton?

#### **Questions for Meadowsend Timberland**

1. Meadowsend speaks of, and refers to in their company brochures, their commitment to permanent land conservation on their other properties. Why is it not included in the plan for Stiles Brook?
2. How much federal money has Meadowsend received for woodland management over the last 15 years?
3. How much have Sheffield property values declined since the project went in?
4. How many homeowners were bought out before, during and after the project went in?

#### **Other Question Recipients**

1. What are the noise readings in Sheffield 2 miles away from the towers?
  - This question will be submitted to Sun Edison.

#### **Removed Questions**

1. ~~How much dynamite was used per tower in Sheffield?~~
2. ~~Who was the primary trucker in Sheffield? Do you plan to use the same company?~~

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These questions were removed.

3. ~~What is the average total gross income of the property over the last 5 years?~~

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This question was removed.

4. ~~What are the sources of this income?~~

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This question was removed.

5. ~~Are you concerned about the tremendous damage the idea of essentially sacrificing, for money, people close to your potential turbine sites has already done to those individuals and to the social fabric of Grafton?~~

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This question was removed.