

HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL

RECEIVED
APR 26 2017

I. Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

II. Featured Items

A. Farm Viability Ordinance wind/alternative energy systems draft. We reviewed the draft and made the following suggested changes:

In the wind section of the revised FVO, add the following in section 6A
To read as follows: (A) siting in a manner that minimizes any sound impacts on surrounding properties and does not exceed a maximum permissible sound requirement of 45 decibels at the property line.

In the preceding paragraph omit the word "large" (any farm of 50 acres or more).

Omit section C regarding agricultural structures.

The final paragraph add the phrase Tangible tax. Instead of property tax, the owner or operator of the wind facility shall pay a use tax of at least five dollars (\$5.00) per kw per year capacity.

Question on why large and intermediate farms are equal acreage minimums. Ask Ken Ayers@ DEM about how this was determined.

Farm photovoltaic: 1. Intermediate Farm up to 1 acre, 2. Large farm up to 2 acres, 3. Farms in excess of 50 acres, total of 3 acres of solar voltaic fields.

III. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March meeting with one correction. Regarding discussion of how acreage is added: contiguous or cumulative?

IV. Officer reports/project updates:

A. Budget and grants status Harvey. Our budget funds are as follows: Consultation \$1,600. Dues/Fees \$250. Supplies \$250. Maps/grant \$3,000 Sign Grant \$3,000. C.I.P. balance \$1061.52 Total: \$9161.52
Expenditures are: Deb supplies \$93.39, Conference dues \$200.00, SRICD \$4140., GMW \$500. UBS 849.82, Laird \$302.34. GMW \$1950. Mega \$693. Total: \$8728.55 Balance \$423.97.

Shared expense: Could we ask the HLT pay for printing and for the kiosk frame for HLT properties? Total would be \$762.42

B. Loves Truck stop, so far no appeal has been filed.

C. Transit hub, exit 1. The project has been abandoned.

D. Mapping and trail development schedule (Harvey) Trying to have kiosks and signs done before May 17th deadline for the grant.

E. Hopkinton Outdoors webpage (John) It would be nice to have a list of public access properties.

F. Planning Board (John) five lot subdivision on Route 3.

G. Legislation and meetings watch (Deb). H 6062 wind energy on farms legislation to be heard 4/12 in committee.

V. New Business

A. Prime agricultural soils comprehensive plan. We would like to talk to the consultants to add more than fluff about preserving this resource.

VII. Gary Marsh suggeste we talk about Digesters as alternative energy.

VIII. Action items: Deb and John will go over the changes to the proposed FVO document. Legislation on wind and solar on farmland HB 6062 is scheduled for a hearing on 4/12/17. The next FVO farmers forum is scheduled for 4/25/17 at 7:00 p.m.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17.

Deborah *Gary*