

3 JONESFIELD TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 25, 2021

- 1) Meeting called to order 6:05 PM at the Jonesfield Township Hall.
- 2) **Roll Call:**
Present: Mike Kenny, Richard Bluemer, Kathy Nock, Mark Gath, (Mike Keenan; Present at 6:49pm)
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4) **Approval of Agenda:**
Motion made by Mike Kenny with addition to discuss notice of the meeting, supported by Kathy Nock. Motion approved by all.
- 5) **Review and Approval of April 13th Meeting minutes;**
Motion made by Mike Kenny, supported by Kathy Nock, Motion approved by all.
- 6) Notice of the meeting and the project was discussed related to listing parcel numbers. Chris Patterson (FSBR – Township Attorney) and Alan Bean (Spicer – Planning Consultant) outlined how notice complied with state law and the Zoning Ordinance.
- 7) **Public comment (Written Correspondence Attached to Minutes):**
Multiple letters submitted by Township residents and others were read by Chris Patterson in support of approval of DTE's proposed Wind Turbine Project. Members of local unions including, IBEW 557, 876, 25, 1098 made public comment supporting project. Saginaw Futures Inc, Girl Scouts of America, Local Operating Engineers Labor Director, and other township residents spoke of support of project. Resident John Miller submitted a letter and requested moving of the adjacent turbine location. Resident Rochelle Siler has issue with the placement of towers and asked the planning commission to not approve the site plan.

See further summarized public comment below:

- Steve Jonas: Vice President of Saginaw Future Inc.
 - o The construction jobs that come from the project are well-paying jobs with benefits.
 - o A growth in wind energy is good.
 - o DTE will be paying thousands of tax dollars.
 - o Supports proposed wind energy project.
- Evan Allardyce (Union Representative)
 - o The construction jobs from the project are well-paying union jobs.
 - o The project is good for communities.
 - o The project is a source of clean, reliable energy.
 - o Supports proposed wind energy project.
- Linda Rubera: Linda came to this meeting on behalf of Girl Scouts.
 - o Wind power is clean, cost-effective power.
 - o Supports proposed wind energy project.
- Ernesto Dias (Union Representative)

- The project creates high-paying jobs with benefits.
- These projects are sustainable.
- Supports proposed wind energy project.
- Lee Graham (Union Representative):
 - Lee is an operating engineer.
 - This project creates jobs, and workers can support their families on the wages they get paid. The workers are treated with respect.
 - This is a job that needs skilled workers. DTE has very safe procedures.
 - This project is good for the environment and for the future.
 - Supports proposed wind energy project.
- Steve Putnam (Union Representative)
 - Before he worked on this wind project, Steve has never worked so close to home. He wanted to emphasize that the workers are local.
 - Supports proposed wind energy project.
- Howard Revbar (Union Representative)
 - Howard is part of the Saint Charles Planning Commission.
 - Howard supports the project. He wanted to emphasize that it is putting the community to work, and the jobs are very close to home.
 - The project creates tax revenue.
- Mike Christianson (Union Representative)
 - Mike supports the project. In the past, he worked on another project that was not local, and he wanted to emphasize that DTE is hiring local.
- Paul Pribey (Union Representative)
 - Paul supports the project. He stated that DTE supports locals and their families.
 - The workers are well-trained and safe.
- Pam
 - Pam is a landowner and supports the project.
 - Wants construction to occur quickly.
- Ron Garrett
 - The planning commission is effective and works to keep local control.
 - Ron is a landowner and thinks that the contractors are great and that they have good communication with the landowners.
- John Miller
 - John questioned what the purpose is of having these meetings.
 - The project will be 1,000 feet from John's property, and he wants individual turbines moved away from his property consistent with past correspondence.
 - He thinks the project will negatively impact the community.
- Jay Striker (Union Representative)
 - He supports the project.
 - The project creates well-paying union jobs.
 - Without this wind project, workers would have to travel farther for work.
- Rochelle Siler

- She is concerned with the placement of the project. She claimed it is not in the special-use permit area.
- Alleges turbines will impact non-participants. The project should not negatively impact non-signers.

8) **DTE Meridian Wind Park- Site Plan Review**

- a) Review of Planning Commission Conflict of Interest Declarations (FSBR). All Board members agreed that the disclosures were correct. **(Declaration Document Attached to Minutes)**
Motion made to Accept disclosures by Kathy Nock, Supported by Mark Gath. All members approved motion.
- b) DTE Presentation of Site Plan. Various details of the site plan were discussed by Emily P. of Miller Canfield (DTE Counsel)
- c) Spicer Report on Site Plan. Alan Bean discussed details of the site plan in detail with regards to shadow flicker and noise for each turbine location as well as various other Zoning Ordinance requirements for project improvements.
- d) Planning Commission Site Plan Deliberation and Discussion. Commissioner Kenny had concerns about the Site Review Plan specific to subsections 8,10, 11, and 13/14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance under Section 907(3C).
- e) Planning Commission Consideration of Meridian Wind Park Site Plan. Motion Made by Kathy Nock to Approve Resolution 2021-1 as presented (A copy distributed to the Planning Commission before the meeting was amended and re-typed to address concerns from Commissioner Kenny related to site plan materials and incorporated conditions for the approval to address Commissioner Kenny's concerns). Supported by Mark Gath.
Roll Call Vote:
Kathy Nock; Yes
Dick Bluemer; Yes
Mark Gath; Yes
Mike Keenan; No
Mike Kenny; No, referencing Zoning Ordinance, Section 907(F).
Motion Passed 3-2.

9) **No General Planning Commission comments**

10) **Extended Public Comment:** Supervisor Stanley Brown, DTE, Ruth Coppens thanked the Commission for the hard work involved. Rochelle Siler questioned if this was a virtual meeting. Also spoke of possible drain issues with her property. John Miller requested moving the turbine location on the property adjacent to his.

- a. Stanley Brown:
 - i. Thanked the people who have worked on the project.
- b. Someone on behalf of DTE (they did not say their name) thanked those who worked on the project.
- c. Rochelle Siler
 - i. Rochelle thinks the distinction between participating and non-participating is very confusing.
 - ii. Rochelle stated that the commission is putting DTE's rights above her rights.

11) **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** July 13th, 2021

12) **Mike Kenny made motion to adjourn at 10:58 pm. Supported by Mike Keenan**