
Mr. Crowe: Let the record reflect we have a full Board. The fire exits are to your rear, the exits to my rear take you into the building. We have a Work Session in the beginning, to go over the Old Business from last month then vote on those applications then we go right to New Business. Has everybody had a chance to review the Minutes from May 7, 2014?

Mr. Peabody: The attorney for the BC Properties, LLC has asked for a continuance until next month.

Mr. D’Onofrio: What for?

Mr. Peabody: They are still trying to work out an agreement between the property owners.

Mr. Crowe: Do we need a vote on that?

Mr. Peabody: I don’t believe so as long as you agree.

Mr. Crowe: I would like a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting.

Ms. DeGraide: So moved

Ms. Lacaillade: Second.

Mr. Crowe: Motion made and seconded, all those in favor say Aye?

Board: Aye.

Mr. Crowe: Nays? Ayes have it.

NEW BUSINESS

Applicant: WED Coventry Two, LLC
Owner: Kevin A. Breene
Location of Property: AP 304 Lot 011; Victory Highway
Zone: RR-5
Existing Use: Vacant Land
Proposed Use: Same
Applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to construct a wind turbine

Applicant: WED Coventry Five, LLC
Owner: Kevin A. Breene
Location of Property: AP 304 Lot 002; Victory Highway
Zone: RR-5
Existing Use: Vacant Land
Proposed Use: Same

Applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to construct a wind turbine

Mr. Handy: My name is Seth Handy I am here to represent Wind Energy Development. On the first property Coventry Two there will be two turbines constructed.

SWORN IN
SETH HANDY
HANDY LAW, LLC
42 WEYBOSSET STREET
PROVIDENCE, RI

Mr. Handy: I am here to present three wind turbines on Victory Highway. The first two are on Plat 304 Lot 011 and 002. These properties are owned by the Breene Family and they are looking for revenue to preserve their existing property. This request for all these turbines for a Special Use Permit in an RR5 zone. I want to give an overview on policy issues in place. As you all may know the State has aggressive policies regarding obtaining more energy sources from renewable energy. There is a renewable energy standard that requires 19% of the energy consumed in Rhode Island come from renewable. That is more beneficial if it comes from our own state. One law that is most relevant to this project is a net metering law that enables towns like Coventry to produce its own energy and net that energy production against their energy consumption so they reduce their energy bills and that is the main purpose of turbines. As far as the local policies go the Coventry Comprehensive Plan calls for this as it provides for the preservation of the land and generating uses. This use enables the owner to receive a lease payment on an annual basis and still benefit from the control and use of their land with benefits to the Town in terms of tax revenue. Your Zoning Ordinance allows for this use as long as it obtains a Special Use Permit.

Mr. DePasquale: Mark DePasquale, 42 Thornton Way, North Kingstown, RI 02852

SWORN IN
MARK DEPASQUALE
42 THORNTON WAY
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852

Mr. DePasquale: Since the last time we finished with Coventry Three and Four we received the Impact Study from National Grid to upgrade the system in Coventry. On the circuit of Piggy Lane they sent us an invoice of 1.2 million dollars. National Grid right now using the wind projects to upgrade a system that is antiquated. In our meeting with National Grid they are having me upgrade the substations, telephone poles with old fuses with re-closers. We are spending about $800,000 on
their substations and by the time we are all done upgrading their system that technically the rate payers have already paid, they are supposed to keep the system up and running. Switches last about 15 years the most and some we are replacing are about 40-50 years old. The bill from National Grid for Piggy Lane for those two turbines are 1.2 million. We estimate the interconnection for the 4 turbines in Coventry to be over 2.5-3 million. Why we are upgrading the whole system is a fight that we are working with National Grid and we are in a bit of litigation regarding this. If you read the laws of the State we are not supposed to be upgrading their system for the renewable energy. We are only supposed to be doing the interconnections at the site. That fee is usually about 80-120,000 dollars. When I first came to you they told us that Coventry Two and Coventry One was $270,000.00. We went in and got permitted for Three and Four and they told us those were about $360,000 for each one and we told them that was a little high but that was only on the site. Then we paid them another $20,000 and they came back for Three and Four at 1.2 million and they aren't even looking at Piggy Lane One and Two. They are now saying I can load the system with 9.5 megawatts. We had a public meeting a few weeks ago and they asked what are these turbines doing for me. When I am done upgrading the service if a tree falls at one end of the circuit, right now the whole circuit goes out, when I am done with all of these re-closures if power drops in one spot it will back feed to allow the power to go in the opposite direction. It shouldn’t be on my burden but that’s where we are going. We connected WED 2A & 2B on Kevin Breene’s property and if notice the property line I had them push the turbine all the way back here to the property line keeping them inside the property so they won’t go over the open space. We adjusted it to break down any potential issues with any neighbors in the front. These turbines are set back fairly far in the back. The intent is to tie everything in together to a larger project which will bring the cost down. The reason this is growing because National Grid is crushing everything. Since we met last time we hired a company, your fire department has me with us, Warwick has met with us, Rhode Island Fire Academy, Providence, we held about a 3-4 hour meeting on training, what they need for gear. We started a program, working with the state to develop a training program. There will probably be three stations, two different departments so if there was an emergency, Coventry will go out and make the site safe, possibly Warwick will come in. The fire department has their harnesses and repelling gear, we offered to supply Coventry with any gear they don’t have. We will put a program together that will start training this fall. Nobody can go in the turbine unless they are certified so we are working together between the private entity construction and Life Safety.

Mr. Crowe: Where are you at at the first three?

Mr. DePasquale: The site work is started at Piggy Lane, we are doing a marking, the road is all laid out on three and four. We have to sign a contract with marking National Grid; we are in negotiations with that. When National Grid signs that contract we write that check. The bank that funds these projects is saying how can you put a burden of $2 million on this one project so I have to prove to the bank that we will take that same fee and spread it over the entire project. The turbines are built, with the exception of towers of those turbines. They will all come in together. We have to sign a turbine supply agreement and before I can sign that I have to sign National Grids. We have had several meetings with National Grid and Goldwyn flew two engineers from Beijing to meet with National Grid to make them comfortable. National Grid wants to do a global impact study. We are looking at two more sites
behind Picillo Farm. The Town is looking at a half million dollars of building permits for this project, we will be creating a lot of jobs. The entire project in Coventry is 72 million.

Ms. DeGraide: They are given you this big bill for this but they are also having you upgrade their system?

Mr. DePasquale: That is what the bill is. I am going to fight them; we are at the point where I have been at the PUC for the last three years. If you read the legislation and the law it says I am not supposed to pay for any upgrades off the site. I am paying 1.2 million in upgrades off the site. The PUC will eventually make a decision. One small item is anti-islanding, it doesn't happen on this type of turbine, it's impossible, we are running tests right now in North Kingstown to prove to National Grid that it doesn't island. It's a $500,000 bill putting in the substation. We are hoping to have another meeting within the next two weeks with National Grid. Show them our sites, tell them what we are looking for and this is what they asked us to do. Show them what we are looking to develop in this whole area, this is the total megawatts of the whole area which is 15 megawatts for the entire project and we are going to do one interconnection because they charge me $10,000.00 for every turbine and the net metering ones are $30,000. Supposedly they are supposed to give it back.

Ms. Soucy: Are there any differences in the turbines between Capwell and Breene?

Mr. DePasquale: They are all the exactly the same.

Mr. Lacaillade: The Chief of the Western Coventry Fire District and Captain Mann have met numerous times in regards to this. I am a member and also the safety officer for that Department. Any and all of our concerns have been addressed.

Mr. D’Onofrio: Is the plan to keep adding on?

Mr. DePasquale: We are discussing two other sites which is behind everybody and Lot 318 which is Beaudoin’s and possibly one on Mr. Morton’s property.

Mr. D’Onofrio: Is there a max number of which you can’t do anymore?

Mr. DePasquale: Not really. Our intent is to come back next month for the last couple.

SWORN IN

Mr. Woods: I am from ESS Group and would like to go over a few technical issues. ESS Group is an environmental engineering and consulting group. I work with Mr. DePasquale and Seth Handy; we are part of the same team. We help with siting and technical studies particularly the sound level, shadow flicker and elevation.

Mr. Crowe: You take a potential site and evaluate it for the wind potential, wetlands and the impact on the environment in that particular area?
Mr. Woods: Yes. With regard to the site layout for Turbine 2A & 2B, we have the access road that goes out Piggy Lane on the Northern Side and goes to Victory Highway. There is an area that will be cleared during the construction phase then will be re-vegetated. The turbine meets the required setback distance which is 430 feet. We try to separate the turbines as much as we can, if they are too close together the disturbance that one turbine causes in the wind screen can decrease the deficiency of the other turbine. We have done the flicker analysis evaluation. The result of the analysis shows very little shadow flicker effects on any of the locations where people would be conducting activity. The accepted number for shadow flicker is about 30 hours per year, what we are looking at here is there are 128 receptors that we looked at within 1500 meters which is about 4900 feet from the wind turbine. 88% will see less than 3 hours a year, 99% will see less than 10 hours per year and the highest level 13 hours per year and this is factoring in the tall trees and vegetation. There are ways to mitigate it. But again the numbers will probably less. The sound level evaluation runs the model at the rated capacity which is when the turbine will produce the highest sound level which is the wind speed at which the turbine will reach the 1.5 megawatt output. These turbines reach wind speed which is about 22 mph. The closest level here is 55 db and as we get out to the property line you are in the 30-45 range which is well below the 65 db.

Mr. Crowe: I would like to open this to the public.

Mr. Ryan: Dennis Ryan, 9 Garfield Drive, Coventry, RI.

**SWORN IN**

**DENNIS RYAN**  
**9 GARFIELD DRIVE**  
**COVENTRY, RI**

Mr. Ryan: I am an intern for Mark and I live in Coventry. This will be beneficial to our state and Town. It will help us save millions of dollars which will help us fund many projects such as Coventry High School athletic complex and roof. This will help our air quality. These turbines will equate to taking about 1400 cars off the road annually.

Mr. Gallagher: Tim Gallagher, 2431 Victory Highway.

**SWORN IN**

**TIM GALLAGHER**  
**2431 VICTORY HIGHWAY**  
**COVENTRY, RI**

Mr. Gallagher: I am in favor of renewable energy my concern is shadow flicker from Turbine 5. 20 hours a year was mentioned, if they can turn it off if it got to the point it was a bother. I know it’s possible to sell the turbine to another entity and I was wondering if you could put in a stipulation that whoever owns the turbine, we would have the ability to contact someone if there was a problem.

Mr. Crowe: I agree.
Mr. Peabody: The easiest way to enforce that would be if it exceeded a set number of hours of flicker per year. So we would say you would have to turn it off if it exceeded a certain amount of hours. The other thing is can you move it over (referring to turbine 5) to get it farther away.

Mr. Crowe: What made me comfortable with this is when I went down to the North Kingstown one and I saw how close the houses were.

Mr. Gallagher: Where I am prevailing winds are out of the west which would put the blades perpendicular to the setting sun. I just want to make sure that we have a contact for whoever owned it. I think this is a great idea.

Mr. DePasquale: Mr. Wood said 18 hours total is the worst case scenario. We manage these turbines for at least 10 years; we operate and do maintenance for 25 years so I will be the contact person. It's part of the agreement. We will work to make sure flicker isn't a problem. If I exceed the 30 hour standard, you send the sheriff out and I get shut down so we won't get close to that.

Mr. Crowe: Mr. Gallagher is concerned God forbid something happens to you.

Mr. DePasquale: Wind Energy Development has full staff. I am the owner, there are investors, the OM is from Goldwin that does the OM so we are teamed together to merge. There will be younger people that will step up. If we exceed the numbers in your Ordinance we have to be shut down but there will always be a contact with a 24 hour number. We are also putting up gates after we are done and these are up. The Turbine Supply Agreement makes it so everyone has to pretty much stay together.

Mr. Crowe: Anybody else?

Ms. DeGraide: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we vote on these Turbine applications tonight.

Mr. D’Onofrio: Second.

Mr. Crowe: Motion made and seconded, all those in favor say Aye?

Board: Aye.

Mr. Crowe: Nays? Ayes have it.

Applicant: WED Coventry Two, LLC
Owner: Kevin A. Breene
Location of Property: AP 304 Lot 011; Victory Highway
Zone: RR-5
Existing Use: Vacant Land
Proposed Use: Same

Applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to construct a wind turbine
*Stipulation*- That if any home (defined as a physical residential structure) is experiencing over 30 hours per year of “flicker” from a turbine, then the responsible party for the wind turbine SHALL mitigate the flicker so that the home does not experience more than 30 hours of flicker per annum.

**Applicant:** WED Coventry Five, LLC

**Owner:** Kevin A. Breene

**Location of Property:** AP 304 Lot 002; Victory Highway

**Zone:** RR-5

**Existing Use:** Vacant Land

**Proposed Use:** Same

Applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to construct a wind turbine

*Stipulation* - That if any home (defined as a physical residential structure) is experiencing over 30 hours per year of “flicker” from a turbine, then the responsible party for the wind turbine SHALL mitigate the flicker so that the home does not experience more than 30 hours of flicker per annum.

Ms. DeGraide: Motion to adjourn.

Ms. Soucy: Second.

Mr. Crowe: Motion made and seconded, all those in favor say Aye?

Board: Aye.

Mr. Crowe: Nays? Ayes have it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.