

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Planning & Development
Wednesday, October 20, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.

-- MINUTES --

Present: Chair, Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Vice Chair, Councilor Robert Whynott; Councilor Greg Verga; Councilor Steven Curcuru (Alternate)

Absent: None.

Also Present: Councilor Curcuru; Jacqueline Hardy; Brian Tarr; Mike Hale; Mark Cole; David Spaulding; Mary Lou Maraganis; David Anderson; James George; Jeff Brown; Amy Donnelly; Dick & Jan Perry; James Rowe; Jeff Orfanos; Bob Tobey; Alicia Padre; Mark Robinson; Dan Turco; Grant Harris; Steve Palazzola; Susan St. Pierre; Bruce Amero; Cris Boisvert

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Items were taken out of order. Councilor Curcuru sat as an alternate for Councilor Whynott until his arrival.

Councilor Jacqueline Hardy declared she was in attendance he meeting as a resident and abutter on the Cherry Street matter; that if she should participate during the meeting on other matters, she would be participating as a resident, and not in her role as a City Councilor

1. Continued Business:

- A) COM2010-026: Request from 1907 LLC and Pavilion Mercato LLC re: BirdsEye Mixed Use Overlay District (“BMOD”) Zoning Proposal (Rezoning #2010-003) (Cont’d from 10/14/10)

Councilor Ciolino announced that at the request of the applicant through their attorney, Lisa Mead via email, this matter would be continued to November 3, 2010.

This matter is continued to November 3, 2010.

- B) Creation of Gloucester Dog Park Petition, pursuant to Sec. 9-1 “Free Petition” of City Charter (Cont’d from 10/06/10)

Councilor Ciolino stated the Committee has done their site visit and the Open Space & Recreation Committee made their recommendation for the location of the off-leash dog park.

Councilor Curcuru expressed concern regarding the abutters adjacent to the Stage Fort Park area proposed for the off-leash dog park and wished for people who live in that area to have an opportunity to come forward and voice their opinion for or against the location. He felt this was important that the public have that opportunity and for the Council to hear them.

Councilor Verga agreed with Councilor Curcuru; that they had the public hearing on the ordinance and felt it only fair to have the proposed site discussed at a public hearing as well. He noted both he and **Councilor Curcuru** supported the ordinance to create an off-leash dog park, but felt a public hearing on the location was necessary.

Councilor Whynott entered the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Councilor Curcuru stepped away as alternate.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Verga, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council under Gloucester Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4, Art. II, Sec. 4-16 that it endorse the recommendation made by the Open Space and Recreation Committee that the site for the Off-Leash Dog Park be

located at Stage Fort Park described as Site #2 near the Stanley Marchant building, and that the City Council shall advise the DPW Director of their endorsement AND TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

C) SCP2010-012: Kondelin Road #16, GZO, Sec. 5.13 PWSF (Cont'd from 09/22/10)

Councilor Ciolino stated all documentation was received in good order by the City Clerk's office.

David Spaulding, USAI.NET noted he was here as the applicant, an internet service provider who will be bringing internet service to the City for the Schools and the City itself as well as reaching out to key businesses in town. He had with him Cris Boisvert, his systems administrator and network engineer; Grant Harris from the public schools; Bruce Amero from Gorton's of Gloucester; Jim George, a consultant for USAI.NET who is helping him get through the process for the permitting.

Councilor Ciolino knew this particular tower has a lot of antennas on it. In the ordinance it requires a third-party expert (Dr. Weinstrup) who usually gives them a report on the radio frequencies which should be easily accomplished because he was sure he had all the records of what went before and what needs to happen. He suggested Mr. Spaulding go to Community Development for that information. There is a \$5,000.00 fee for Fire Department training which is in the ordinance and has to be done.

Mr. Spaulding replied it is a standard antenna that is bringing internet connectivity from Boston to Beverly to Kondelin Road to be redistributed to Gloucester. They were asked by the head of Public Utilities Commission several years ago to consider the plight of Essex County and that wires have been hanging on telephone poles for 50-70 years and don't work very well. In order to support economic development for retaining businesses like Gorton's and Varian that have increased internet needs as well as further economic development and growth to encourage new business to come here, they encouraged to come to this community to provide new service. The antenna is simply a way to bring bandwidth here without five years of "dragging" fiber up Rt. 128 to get conductivity to Gloucester with microwave technology. On inquiry from **Councilor Ciolino**, Mr. Spaulding stated this antenna is for wireless – point-to-point internet connectivity coming from Beverly to this tower and individual connections onto the roofs of the schools, Fuller School mainly for connecting to the internet. There is a second radio link down onto Gorton's roof to provide them with greater bandwidth and "light" downtown Gloucester with connectivity.

Councilor Verga stated this is a broadband signal.

Mr. Spaulding replied yes, point-to-point from Beverly, to Kondelin Road to the Gorton's Building on Rogers Street and then from there other places. This would allow for wi-fi at various locations downtown. The phone company, he believed, has not done a good job of getting conductivity here, and that is why they are coming to Gloucester. They are an alternate phone company. They also work with economic development and have won awards for school mentoring programs in Haverhill. They re-lit some secondary downtown districts in Boston under the auspices of a program out of Mayor Menenos' office.

Councilor Verga asked if this would be creating a hot spot downtown; it is a nice broadband signal for people to plug into.

Mr. Spaulding explained it is a point-to-point shot into Gorton's building and from there they would do redistribution to other buildings in town as needed. He noted Sarah Garcia had asked them if they would consider doing wi-fi along the boardwalk, so you need to get bandwidth there to do that. That's one of the things they can do from that location.

Councilor Verga wondered if they could do it for City Hall (the building being notorious for lack of signal).

Mr. Spaulding noted coming "over the bridge" one's cell phone doesn't work very well. They understand internet connectivity is a problem. Gorton's is a large business and is struggling with a couple of DSL lines because it's all you can get up here. The phone company has not done a very good job of getting connectivity here, and was why there were here now. In Boston they re-wire whole skyscrapers,

Class A & B real estate, bringing a connection to the roof and fibered down through the building.

Councilor Ciolino asked how this works as a consumer.

Mr. Spaulding stated they're not here really for residential users; they're mainly here to help businesses to survive and provide jobs. In order to survive here you need for fast reliable internet connectivity which is what they bring.

Councilor Ciolino asked about the relationship between USAI.NET and the School system.

Mr. Spaulding responded they are a state approved vendor, so municipalities can buy from them without going to bid. They are a pre-approved as a vendor under ITT-37. The school department buys internet connectivity from them. Last year they were paying for about 4.5 MG's of connectivity and it was \$2,200. Right now the Schools are paying \$2,200 for 20 MG's. This is giving them a technological upgrade without increasing the budget. They service on a wired service, the back up link. They are unique in the way they bring service to a company; they will bring a traditional wired circuit that comes down the street on telephone poles or in conduit. The problem is that things happen that disrupt it. They bring the microwave connection to roofs. Where they know the wires are very old on the poles here, they are choosing to go wireless which they know will work and work well.

Ms. Hardy asked if there was a control room.

Mr. Spaulding stated there is a hut underneath the tower at Kondelin Road that all the people who have equipment there have access to; and is controlled from there. He noted they'd likely never go there. The network is controlled remotely. He pointed to Mr. Boisvert stating he could control the whole network on his laptop.

Ms. Hardy asked how many carriers were on the tower at Kondelin Road. He didn't know how many carriers were on that tower. He knew of several.

Mr. George stated there are at least two carriers.

Councilor Verga thought O&A (P&D) should review the ordinance to allow for antennas that go up on existing towers.

Councilor Verga stated they will try to be as cooperative as possible.

Mr. Spaulding wanted to know what areas of the City need bandwidth. There are several options from broadband to macro solutions.

Mr. Spaulding noted the closer this happens to snow flying it becomes more difficult for them to get this done. Packing wires safely up the tower is a concern to them and wanted to express that he would hope this matter could go through the process as quickly as was feasible. He knew the contractor would do it, but he would rather have it done before snow fell.

Ms. Hardy asked which site was harder as an installation – Kondelin Road or Rogers Street.

Mr. Spaulding confirmed Kondelin Road.

Ms. Hardy noted that one has been to Dr. Weinstrup a number of times with the technology improving since the last time he did it; it may be within the realm of this committee to waive the study; thereby saving some money as well. That has been tested and re-tested a number of times. She suggested that it was likely the soonest the public hearing would be before City Council would mid- to late November.

Councilor Ciolino stated they would do what they could to help shepherd the matter through the Council. As to the report that needs to be written, he thought Mr. Weinstrup would have all he needs to produce a report.

Mr. Spaulding confirmed everything was in their documentation of the application.

Councilor Verga thought the ordinance governing PWSF's needs to be fast tracked to O&A for a review; there are things that need to be re-examined.

Mr. Spaulding reiterated the company has an economic development mindset. They're looking to help; they helped Haverhill; they helped Boston. Along the lines of updating the ordinance, in order to come here to serve the City, he needed to put three antennas in Beverly, three in Gloucester. In Beverly it was 15 minutes in the office and \$65.00, and it was done. He did that and then came here to help the City and asked the Committee to help him to help the City.

Councilor Verga noted he had met with the USAI.NET people earlier before this meeting to look to bring connectivity to Lanesville, Magnolia and West Gloucester. People are willing to help. We shouldn't be hindering the process.

Mr. Spaulding added that if there were initiatives they would like done in town; low income housing that has no internet connectivity or other areas of the City that do not have coverage, they will build it and try to reach out and help those areas that you need coverage. They would be glad to do that and for wireless.

Mr. George stated there are several options that can be tapped into. USAI.NET is trying to come in and do what no one else has. Cape Ann in general is a rock and Verizon is not dealing with it; and they're trying to come up with creative solutions from the wireless and internet side. Once it's here, he's going to look to increase cellular coverage for the T-Mobiles, Verizons and AT&T's .

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Whynott the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING the matter of SCP2010-012: Kondelin Road #16, GZO, Sec. 5.13 PWSF.

This matter was continued to November 3, 2010.

D) SCP2010-013: Rogers Street #127, GZO Sec. 5.13 PWSF (Cont'd from 09/22/10)

Councilor Ciolino advised all documentation was received in good order by the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Spaulding stated this is an antenna that will receive its signal from Kondelin Road to an antenna on the side of Gorton's building, no tower installation at all; and be positioned so that it won't be seen by the public. It is to receive the signal. The antenna will be attached to the building on the Rogers Street side of the building which has enough height. The main server is on Kondelin Road; and if they go to someone in Blackburn Park, they would choose to go off of Kondelin Road tower and come back to get another permit. In the case of downtown, they don't need to go back because they have built enough facility and are planning to build facilities onto Gorton's for redistribution around the City itself. They are considered a fairly large dish, about 2 ft. When you get to servicing smaller customers in downtown you can make the dishes small enough so they disappear entirely. From a safety point of view, it is all FCC approved. It is similar frequency band to a microwave oven. A microwave oven is allowed to leak one watt around the door as its cooking. They're doing 100 milliwatts from miles away. There is no health impact on this. The larger the antenna, the less power they're talking about.

Councilor Ciolino stated they are required to have a third-party review under the ordinance.

Mr. Spaulding responded they had an engineering study done by American Tower and the FCC and wondered if that was not sufficient.

Councilor Ciolino stated the City does its own. They will have to hire Dr. Weinstrup or someone similar to get the study done. He asked they talk to the Community Development Director to get some names and they will file a report with the City. This is so they know there are no problems with it. He understood Mr. Spaulding has done this before. This is a first for the City; and they're going by the book and to make sure the safety of the population is assured. They may need to revisit this. Right now this is what they have on the books.

Mr. Spaulding replied he had met with Sarah Garcia and Gregg Cademartori on this to discuss how the ordinance works out. They understand this is a process and are going through it. He thought it seemed to be a laborious process. They will work it through.

James George, USAI.NET asked for the Committee to point out where in the ordinance it shows the \$5,000.00 contribution to the Fire Department Training from the ordinance and what section it was in.

Councilor Ciolino stated yes and found it for Mr. George and gave it to him to review.

Ms. Hardy asked will there be a control room there at Gorton's.

Mr. Spaulding stated that the radio is controlled remotely. At their location it will go into their network closet. The equipment goes to where their network control equipment is. Because they have so many facilities in the Seafood Center at Rogers Street #127, it would be in the network closet there.

Ms. Hardy asked about the security for the room.

Mr. Amero stated and it is guarded and the employees have passes.

Ms. Hardy asked what cools that room.

Mr. Spaulding stated the facility where the radio is there is an air conditioner on the side of their little network enclosure that holds everything which turns on and off as they need it to. They monitor constantly the power status. They are on Gorton's back up generators. There is small battery back up to get it over the hurdle of the Gorton's generator kicking in, in the event of a power outage or another event..

Ms. Hardy wanted to be sure the fans and air conditioning is not heard in the neighborhood; but she imagined this was contained in the building.

Mr. Amero stated that the cabinet is in the building; and the actual device is physically is no bigger than a laptop.

Councilor Hardy asked of the signage on the door of the closet.

Cris Boisvert, USAI.NET stated the radio equipment frequency signs are near the antenna.

Ms. Hardy stated one of the requirements is that signage has to be on the door; and that a plan has to be on file with the Fire Department as to the location in an emergency.

Bruce Amero, **Gorton's** confirmed they have plans and will see that the Fire Department has them.

Mr. Spaulding stated that the security as far as the equipment, it is within the mechanical areas where only limited staff is able to go and there are locked doors.

Councilor Ciolino noted this information was in 5.13.12 Provisions for Safety, Fire Safety and Rescue but didn't name the figure of \$5,000.00 but that is what they have been charging for years. He also stated that they would like to have a site visit this Saturday, October 23, 2010, 9 a.m. and will meet at the guard booth at the Seafood Center for a quick look.

Mr. Amero confirmed access would not be an issue to the room, the outside and the roof.

Councilor Verga asked that the matter of the \$5,000.00 payment for the Fire Department training be referred to the Legal Department to see if it is possible to waive the fee.

Mr. Spaulding saw it as a gray area if you were applying for a tower; and it was 200 ft. you'd be looking for some kind of training of the Fire Department; even though that is not done in the industry. He asked the Committee to consider the option of doing additional services in lieu of money which he thought it would be of greater value to the City, in keeping with economic development and trying to get bandwidth across the City in outlying areas where it does not exist. The State recognizes 32 cities that have internet connectivity problems; most are in Western MA and Essex, Gloucester and Rockport; and they're here for that. The City has a fire station with poor connectivity; but the school has the need for connectivity faster than what they have existing there now. They would be willing to add another antenna, a \$5,000 to \$15,000 expense on their part, to reach bandwidth out to that location. They would rather see that kind of expenditure than cash and accomplishes the task that the State has asked of them.

Councilor Whynott asked Mr. Spaulding to put that in writing and they would refer that to the City Solicitor. Mr. Spaulding should also check with Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr to see if this was OK with him as well (with regard to the schools).

Mr. Amero stated they are suffering at Gorton's. They're doing the best they can by adding more Comcast lines, trying to use technology for routers that don't work; and as their business is growing and they're taking more electronic data in, they're being handcuffed to the point where it becomes a disadvantage to be here. That is why they're looking for new technology. This is new to Gloucester. They've not done this. Gorton's believes in it. They need this technology to keep their company going.

Councilor Ciolino stated there would be a site visit on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 9 a.m. for this site.

Mr. Amero assured the Committee they would have access to the equipment closet, the side of the building and the roof as well.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Whynott the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING the matter of SCP2010-01e: Rogers Street #127, GZO, Sec. 5.13 PWSF.

This matter is continued to November 3, 2010.

E) SCP2010-014: Cherry Street #32 (O'Maley Middle School), GZO Sec. 5.22 Wind (Cont'd from 09/22/10)

Councilor Ciolino noted all appropriate documentation has been filed with the City Departments as well as the City Clerk's office.

Brian Tarr, Assistant Superintendent stated emphatically that this is not a turbine intended to generate power for the school; it is strictly for educational purposes; the most electricity it could generate might run a conventional household electric toaster. He introduced Amy Donnelly, a science teacher at the O'Maley School and Mark Robinson, President of New Day Energy, the company who would be providing the turbine. It couldn't generate enough energy to run a pencil sharpener in the school.

Mark Robinson, President of New Day Energy and dealer for Windspire Energy, Kingston, MA stated Windspire Energy of Reno, NV developed this turbine. It is entirely a U.S. production. They are made in Michigan by them with about 90% recycled materials. The attempt is to try and put electro-production within the grasp of the average homeowner. Most can't afford to go out and buy a large turbine to take care of 100% of their power needs. You also can't put it in a typical residential neighborhood. The reason the School went with this has more to do with design than producing power. If you want to produce power you would have to put up multiple units of the kind under discussion now. The units are virtually silent. They do not work on a cup theory like you would with an old style anemometer. They are air foils which work off of lift; and the turbine is being dragged around by the wind. Their experience has been that the sound levels do support the scientific findings; you can't hear them. At 30 mph it is almost impossible to hear and needed to approach it at 6 ft. to even hear it at all. He stated the wind "whistling past my ears drowned out the sound of the turbine". He described installation of 3 turbines next to a home in New Ipswich, NH where the homeowner just couldn't hear them at all and thought they weren't working; which, in fact they were. They're totally self-contained with a simplistic structure, 3 vertical elons (sp); a large mono-pole which holds it all up; typical installation is a concrete plug in the ground 7 ft. deep, 2 ft. diameter; and is lifted up into position. It connects directly into a home's electrical panel. The turbine is UL certified, #1741, so they can be direct grid connected. They're not intended for storing power. They're intended for mitigating one's power. In MA they have net metering. In other states they 'try to pay you'. In our state if you produce more power than you are using, you get kilowatt power credits, which he contended was more valuable. They're 20 years no maintenance because there are only two contact parts. It is an air-gap generator which is made up of rare-earth magnets which are set in layers between solid core copper windings. As the magnets rotate they induce a current. The inverter takes the DC current and converts it to AC power. The net result shows up on the household meter. This style is used in a school setting noting two in Hartford, one in Kingston, and several in Mashpee for educational purposes. These come with a program that is wireless with a transmitter; as long as they're in 300 ft. of it, they can monitor what is going on in real time. They can see the rpm's of the turbine, the watts it is putting out and show the accumulation and change the accumulation time from hours to days and produce a graph of that production. It will show rpm's vs. watts out so they can see the change in production levels. In Kingston they have network through the school and is feeding back to the main office this information and able to display it in the classrooms to see in real time what the turbine is producing. He has had positive feedback with people commenting that they just can't hear the turbine at all. This is one of the tools that students can see what is real.

Amy Donnelly, a science teacher at O'Maley School for the last eleven years stated they teach a weather and climate unit every fall. A big focus in the unit is climate and climate change. She noted for 13 and 14 year old kids, as soon as they figure out the science behind climate change, they want to fix it. The course work looks at alternative energy components; how do they step away from fossil fuel and look for alternative energy sources to meet energy needs. They look at electricity; how it can be made by something that simply spins; and then they go right into building wind turbines in the Birdseye Science

Lab out of cardboard; and work with the variables how to produce power from them. The school looked at the Museum of Science turbines, of which there are five affixed to the roof there. Out of the five when they were there, the Windspire turbine was the only turbine spinning and noted at that time there was a decent wind. They researched and found the information that Mr. Robinson just presented. The height is 30 ft. Seeing the shape and the fact they make no noise and the substance of what they are, she contended the turbine fits into their curriculum and how they are teaching.

Mr. Robinson passed around pictures that were photo-shopped of a Windspire turbine as it would sit on the roof of the school. There is a pole on the steel structure of the stack that is of the height of the turbine and has been in place for a week.

Mr. Tarr added the funding is from the Gloucester Education Foundation. This does not come out of the School budget.

David Brown, Gloucester School Department stated they did a lot of research and this particular machinery is “a fabulous device”, is low impact; is manageable; does not tax the school system; because it doesn’t go around like a pinwheel it is very effective from a teaching perspective, and from their perspective this was a good choice; decent hardware to solve a problem.

Mr. Robinson stated they are re-using an existing structure on the roof, a decommissioned cooling tower from an old A/C system on the roof of the O’Maley School. They don’t have to violate the integrity of the roof. They’ll put it the main support for the turbine through the steel structure.

Councilor Ciolino asked if they went through the standards to the ordinance is noise; that it conformed to GZO, Sec. 5.22.7 Environmental Standards, #(d) Noise: The commercial wind energy conversion facility and associated equipment shall conform to Massachusetts noise regulations (310 CMR 7.10) and the provisions of the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 13: Noise. An analysis, prepared by a qualified acoustical engineer, shall be present to demonstrate compliance with these noise standards and be consistent with MA Dept. of Environmental Protection guidance for noise measurement.

Mr. Robinson stated they did provide that information to the school, and can be found in the application.

Councilor Ciolino asked about the shadowing or flickering impacts and read the Gloucester Zoning Ordinances, section 5.22.7 (e): Shadowing/Flicker: “Wind energy conversion facilities shall be sited in a manner that does not result in significant shadowing or flicker impacts. The proponent has the burden of proving that this effect does not have significant adverse impact on neighboring or adjacent uses either through siting or mitigation.”

Mr. Robinson responded there is no shadowing or flickering because you do not have the same type of structure. It is completely different [than a commercial structure].

Councilor Ciolino added that they needed to have these answers written down and submitted to the Committee.

Mr. Robinson stated emphatically there is no shadowing or flickering.

Councilor Ciolino added that they needed to have these answers written down and submitted to the Committee.

Councilor Verga asked for the dimensions of the smoke stack.

Mr. Brown stated the smoke stack where it stands on the roof of the school is above the parapet. The top of the stack will be roughly 2 ft. below the height of the turbine installed as in the engineer’s drawings. The diameter of the stack is 30”, between 24” to 30” as it climbs. The spire itself is a 4 ft. diameter for the turbine with a 2 ft. differential from the top of the decommissioned smoke stack, and he pointed out the part of the application where this information was to be found to the Committee.

Mr. Robinson pointed out the section that shows regardless of what the wind speed the turbine is running, that it maintains itself below the normal audible level; you are not able to actually hear it.

Councilor Verga read #i) of Section 3 Supporting Plans and Documentation from the SCP2010-014 application: i) Noise and Environmental Requirements: The sound output of the Windspire is 6 dBA above ambient at 6 ft. from the base in a 15 mph wind. Windspire wind turbines are vertical axis turbines and by design do not generate the noise associated with traditional horizontal axis turbines. In a horizontal axis turbine, when the turbine spins, the blades pass through an area of air flow deficiency created by the support tower. The sudden variation on air flow encountered by the lower blade causes a periodic noise

often described as a thumping sound. In a vertical axis turbine, such as the proposed Windspire, the blades are parallel to the tower, eliminating this effect. In addition, the Windspire spins at a much lower tip speed than propeller turbines of the same output, making the Windspire safer and quieter. (Noise charts are attached to the application on file.)

Councilor Ciolino asked if there was a thumping sound that would emanate from the turbine.

Mr. Robinson stated firmly, “no”; not with the Windspire turbine.

Councilor Ciolino asked if there was anything about shadowing or flickering. He was focusing on that because usually that is the biggest problem.

Susan St. Pierre, Clean Energy Project Manager for the City stated when looking at typical turbine it is an issue. With this type of turbine flicker and shadow are not an issue. She showed the Councilor Page 6 of the application where this issue is addressed.

Councilor Verga then read from Page 6 of the Gloucester Public School’s submission addressing GZO Sec. 5.22.7 (e): “Shadowing/Flicker – The proposed turbine has been sited in a manner that does not result in significant flicker impacts. Please note that this turbine is a vertical axis turbine and as such, flicker, commonly associated with horizontal axis turbines, is virtually nonexistent.”

Richard Perry 41 Cherry Street did the turbine create harmonics in the building with a wind of 35 to 40 mph.

Mr. Robinson stated it is not hard mounted to the building but mounted on rubber shock mounts. You may get an inch or two of displacement but it doesn’t happen until about 90 mph. At 30-45 mph it is dampened out. Part of the reason is the assembly seems to float inside the base. He then described the engineering which keeps the harmonics from happening. It turns with six ounces of pressure. It is the same engineering as an anemometer, and self-stabilizing because it is a gyro. The whole unit weighs 600 lbs., 400 lb. of which is in the base assembly. It does start to shut down at about 35 mph. The only two moving contact parts are the bearings.

Carol Blackburn 49 Cherry Street understood it was quiet and looked at the plans but didn’t understand rpm’s. She wondered what the sound of a car horn was in comparison, and what would be the sound going down the street as one drove by.

Mr. Robinson answered by giving the example of an installation that had an aspen tree next to a turbine; the aspen tree’s leaves rattling in the breeze were louder 10 ft away from it. He stated again there would be no sound from the turbine, and it will be hundreds of feet from the nearest neighbor.

Brad Marques 41 Raynard Street asked what the kilowatts output was expected per year.

Mr. Robinson stated it puts out about 2,000 kilowatt hours per year. Instantaneous output would run a hair dryer. The turbine turns on at 8 mph which is 200 rpm’s and will operate consistently there down to 5 mph. If it goes below that the inverter shuts down. They try to site them in an area where there are 6 or 7 mph to 30 mph winds. The kids will see regular production on it.

Mr. Marques asked what about as a homeowner.

Mr. Robinson stated home owners; he personally uses around 7,500 kilowatt hours per year. It takes about 30% of what he uses. A homeowner gets 30% back from the federal government just for installation; payback is 10 years with a life expectancy of 25 years for the turbine.

Bob Tobey, 60 Cherry Street noted the application material indicated there would be 50 decibels of sound at 80 ft. from the unit and didn’t say at what wind speed and wondered if it would be a higher decibel output at a higher wind speed.

Mr. Robinson responded at 50 decibels, a howling wind would have to be blowing outside; you would have just reached normal speech.

Ms. St. Pierre noted the chart Mr. Tobey referred to was just to show what the levels represent if you have this much noise already in the background.

Mr. Tobey thought then the bottom line was that the unit does not produce 50 decibels.

Mr. Robinson stated it produces 6 dBA above background noise.

Councilor Whynott stated that in the City Clerk’s office with the sound ordinance, they had a list with equivalents of decibels, the sounds made; 45 dBA was what a washing machine made 10 years ago. Six is very low.

Mr. Robinson stated you have to account for how far away from the turbine you are. He suggested that if you left the conference room and went to the opposite end of the hall from the doorway, you would not be able to hear him, and likened the travel of sound from the turbine in that manner. He didn't think anyone in the school yard standing where the buses come through should be able to hear the turbine at all. **Kirk Benson** 42 Cherry Street asked if they could hard wire this into the school for more educational value.

Ms. Donnelly replied the turbine will be hard wired in.

Mr. Benson was in favor of the installation of the turbine and thought it a great idea; and wondered if this mount on the roof will hold the turbine firmly in place.

Mr. Robinson stated they have provided the engineering schematics, and that it will be supported well. It will be tied to the steel structure. It is the same style mount as on the Museum of Science in Boston.

Alicia Padre, 38 Cherry Street thought this seemed a benign project compared to a commercial wind energy conversion facility. She wondered if they did this and the school closes, like the Fuller School, would that use still apply in the future so someone else could put more turbines in because permit use usually goes with the land.

Councilor Ciolino stated the permit stays with the property. He believed a future owner would have to come back for an upgrade on the permit to add any more turbines. He didn't think they would allow anything bigger than what would be there [after this installation].

Ms. Padre thought that they should specify for educational use only.

Jacqueline Hardy, 29 Cherry Street asked if there would be a site visit and that they will be able to see the height the turbine will be.

Councilor Ciolino advised there is a pole up on the stack now at height of the full 30 ft. The ordinance states it be demarcated by a balloon but didn't think it would be necessary as they have the pole. He announced that there would be no action taken on the matter this evening; there would be a site visit to the location by the Committee on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. rain or shine. They will meet at the front door of the O'Maley School.

This matter is continued to November 3, 2010.

F) Petition of Residents re: 85-89 Bass Avenue: Report by Building Inspector (Cont'd from 07/28/10)

Councilor Ciolino stated this matter was placed erroneously on the P&D Agenda. A matter related to it is anticipated to be referred out to the Committee by the City Council at its October 26, 2010 meeting and should be taken up by the Committee at their November 17, 2010 meeting.

2. PP2010-005: Installation of J.O. Guy Stub Pole #3-84 and Anchor and Guy re: Tufts Lane

Councilor Ciolino stated since no representative from National Grid was present this evening, he would continue the matter to November 3, 2010.

This matter is continued to November 3, 2010.

3. SCP2010-015 Kirk Road #9, Lowlands Permit, Sec. 5.5.4 Lowlands (To be cont'd to 11/03/10)

Councilor Ciolino corrected for the record that the agenda stated this matter would be continued to November 4, 2010 when in fact it will be continued to November 3, 2010.

This matter is continued to the November 3, 2010 meeting.

4. CC2010-074 (Verga) Permitting process for use of City Property

Councilor Verga stated he received several calls as did Councilor Curcuru on the ECB Cyclo-cross event at Stage Fort Park. This being his first year on the Council and the first year the Council has required permitting of events around the City, the question came forward what's the distinction between the Fishtown Horribles Parade and the Cyclo-cross event, what separates the events for permitting. He was not looking for any action by the Committee this evening but rather a discussion on it; how the previous Council got to the point where parades and other events had to have permits

Councilor Ciolino stated they weren't questioning the DPW's authority, but when streets are blocked, they come before this Committee so there is awareness that roads are being blocked and that they understood they have jurisdiction on the park. He wished to come to an agreement that if for some reason Hough Avenue is going to be blocked to traffic that they come to the Committee.

Councilor Curcuru stated when he questioned that several years ago he was told that road was part of the park and was not a detriment to the residents who live in that area because it was not blocking any access to anyone's home or property. When that road gets blocked it's not that it deters anyone from getting home; no one goes on that road to get home. When there is an event such as this, people go from the other exit. The confusion this year was that the Gloucester Police Department didn't notify the event organizers until that morning they couldn't supply a police detail. That's why there was a Manchester policeman there (the first day of a two-day event).

Councilor Whynott thought it was all the more reason to come before the Committee first.

Michael Hale, DPW Director stated there are a lot of events that the DPW issues under the Code of Ordinances. Some may have an issue. He's not opposed to bring anything before the Council but would appreciate clear guidelines as to what it is. He thought closing Hough Avenue was not the same as closing Western Avenue (with regard to access impact).

Councilor Ciolino stated they have races that have come before them for permission, that start and end from the park using City roadways. This is a "new deal" where all of these events are being permitted.

Mr. Hale suggested that they take a look at some sort of permitting process for all of these events. He noted this was one of the busiest summers for them in that regard. He thought it might be beneficial for them all to take a look at the process.

Councilor Ciolino felt when an organization comes to use the park; the question needs to be asked if they're blocking the street. If they are, it should be the trigger that they be told they need to come before the City Council to get permission to block the street. That would take care of it, and they don't wish to make it more complicated; 99% of what goes on there does not block any streets.

Councilor Verga agreed with Mr. Hale that there should be some criteria; maybe it should be, do you need a detail; how many participants do you anticipate; how many spectators do you anticipate. Then when it reaches that level, that they've determined, and then it comes to the Council, instead of everything flowing through this Committee.

Councilor Ciolino disagreed that when a street is blocked it is then it should come be up to this Committee to determine if their proposal is adequate; and did not think this was a duplication of effort. It is the same criteria they use for other permits they issue. He thought it might be one or two events a year.

Mr. Hale stated whatever the Committee needs, they will provide. This was the 11th or 12th year of the Cyclo-cross event which has always been permitted the same way.

Councilor Curcuru stated the Cyclo-cross annual event doesn't completely block the street. You're allowed to go up from Western Avenue by the tennis courts and park in the parking lot; they don't stop you from doing that. Anyone is allowed to park there and it and the park remain accessible. There is no charge for admission, and they have control of the road as the race starts on the lower level. The right police detail wasn't provided; and if it had there probably wouldn't have been an issue.

Councilor Verga added that Councilor Curcuru was correct; and there also wasn't proper signage to add to the confusion.

Councilor Curcuru noted typically you would have had a policeman there who knew the process and this particular policeman did not. He personally had to go to speak with the officer two or three times that day. And there was no police detail at all the next day.

Mr. Hale stated they could submit the permit applications in advance to the Committee so that they have something to go on. He noted there was a scheduled beach soccer tournament this summer that could have been big. That may be something that should come before the Council.

Councilor Ciolino stated they would want to see the ones that only wanted to use the roadway. He and Councilor Verga got calls (about the Cyclo-cross event) and didn't know the street was going to be blocked; and reiterated this is the only body that can permit blocking the streets. Going forward they want to be informed if the road is going to be blocked so that they can come before the Council.

There was no action taken by the Committee and the matter was considered closed.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees**

DOCUMENTATION/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

- **Photo-shopped color photographs 8-1/2 x 11 of the wind turbine site submitted by Mark Robinson, President, New Day Energy**