

Environmental Sub-Committee (ESC)

Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Minutes for Meeting of September 22, 2017

Attendance

Chairman Si Kinsella, WCAC Member
Rick del Mastro, WCAC Member
Executive Director Sara Davison, Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation, Inc
Councilwomen Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, East Hampton Town Board
Director of Natural Resources Kim Shaw, Town of East Hampton

Excused:

Bruce Solomon, WCAC Member
Virginia Edwards, WCAC Member
Carolyn Logan Gluck, WCAC Member

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 24, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved with one minor correction.

378 Montauk Hwy (property formerly known as The Swamp)

A public hearing by the EH Town Board to purchase the site located at 378 Montauk Highway that was formerly known as The Swamp. The contract has been signed by the estate, but is still subject to a positive public hearing and Town Board approval. The Town Board must pass a resolution accepting the signed contract.

The public hearing will be held at –

Thursday, October 5 @ 6:30pm
East Hampton Town Hall
159 Pantigo Rd, East Hampton, NY 11937

Public support for the CPF acquisition is imperative.

Georgica Pond Report

Member Davison confirmed that the water quality of Georgica Pond has been very good this summer and that the Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation (FoGP) is working with the East Hampton Town Trustees, East Hampton Town and East Hampton Village in an effort to finalize a NYS Department Environmental Conservation (DEC) permit to dredge the south end of Georgica Pond.

Wainscott Pond Report

Member Kinsella reported that the research project and monitoring program for Wainscott Pond is up and running. Blue-green algae levels in the pond have been very high. Funds raised for the Wainscott Pond monitoring have been paid directly to the Stony Brook Foundation.

Airborne Hexavalent Chromium (Rick Del Mastro)

Member Del Mastro reported on correspondence with the NYS DEC's Division of Air Resources. They find Suffolk Cement at the pit to be in compliance. They directed Rick to several labs to look into additional testing. Member Del Mastro & Councilwomen Burke-Gonzalez will also look into whether the State or Town can require Suffolk Cement to keep the dust off all neighboring roads & property. Member Del Mastro said that he will contact WCAC Member Barry Frankel to see whether he can persuade John Tintle to attend the WCAC on November 4, 2017.

Deep Water Wind

Member Kinsella questioned why Deep Water Wind is willing bear the extra expense of using the proposed Wainscott Beach landing site when it is about \$20m less expensive to use the closer beach landing site at Napeague Lane. beach landing site to the proposed Wainscott Beach beach landing site which is an extra 8 miles and an extra \$16m?

1. Wainscott Beach landing site to the East Hampton substation (about 4-5 miles) when it half the distance from from the Napeague Lane beach landing site to the Amagansett Substation at a cost of \$4m. of the Amagansett substation couldn't be upgraded by LIPA to receive the cable from Deep Water Wind's off-shore wind turbines. This would allow for the electricity supply cable to make land at Napeague, which is the Trustees' preferred landing site. along with many other outstanding questions. Member Kinsella has requested from Deep Water Wind a written proposal for the Wainscott Beach Lane site. Natural Resources Director Shaw said that she and Planning Director Marguerite Wolffsohn had met with Deep Water Wind and had recommended landing the electricity supply cable at Atlantic Beach in Amagansett which, for whatever reason, does not appear to be in the running.

New Public Well on Stephen Hand's Path

The status of a new public well on Stephen Hands Path was briefly discussed. Member Davison will contact Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) for more information.

Request for the Protection of the Wainscott Hydrologic System

Member Kinsella noted that neither the ESC nor the WCAC had received a response from the Town or its consultant, Dodson & Flinker, to its request for greater protection of the Wainscott Hydrologic System. Member Kinsella questioned why the Town had failed to respond in substance to the request for greater protection of Wainscott drinking-water supply.

Although the meeting had not concluded, Sara who was taking the minutes in the absence of the secretary had to leave the meeting at 11am.



Barnstable wary of proposed Vineyard Wind project

By Mary Ann Bragg

Posted Dec 25, 2017 at 5:52 PM Updated Dec 26, 2017 at 7:23 AM

HYANNIS — Toxic transformer fluids could pollute drinking water if leaks occur at a substation where an offshore wind energy developer plans to connect to the region's electric grid, according to an attorney for the town of Barnstable.

"We haven't seen the plans," Charles McLaughlin said of Vineyard Wind's plan to connect an underground transmission cable to an Eversource substation in Independence Park.

But it's not the first time McLaughlin and others have raised concerns about how energy from offshore wind turbines would be plugged into the electric grid.

Vineyard Wind was one of three companies to submit bids last week to sell up to 800 megawatts of offshore wind energy to electric distribution companies, part of a package of renewable energy incentives in 2016 state legislation. The companies, each with undeveloped federal land under lease south of Martha's Vineyard, will hear in April whether their bids have been selected for negotiations.

The other two companies, Revolution Wind and Bay State Wind, plan to bring their transmission cables aground west of Cape Cod.

In a Nov. 17 letter to Vineyard Wind Chief Development Officer Erich Stephens, Barnstable Town Manager Mark Ells emphasized that the company's project "will need to demonstrate to the town's satisfaction that it will not pose a danger to the town's groundwater and fragile public water supply."

In turn, Stephens said the company would build a system to handle any spills as part of the upgrades that would be needed at the substation.

"We've said all along that we will be building containment into the substation so that in the very unlikely case there is leakage it would be fully contained to protect the watershed," Stephens said.

The cable would be solid, with no fluid, but there would be fluid in the transformers at the substation, Stephens said.

The town, though, has learned a thing or two from its experience with Cape Wind, McLaughlin said.

The long-debated 130-turbine wind farm planned for Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound came to a quiet end this month when Cape Wind officials gave up their federal lease after a 16-year permitting and legal effort.

New equipment that was to be added to the substation in the Cape Wind plan included two harmonic filter capacitors and an expanded compensator, according to 2014 materials in the Cape Wind and NStar — now Eversource — petition before the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board.

With the help of consultants during the Cape Wind permitting process, the town learned about two fluids for the new equipment with the proprietary names of Edisol, for the harmonic filter capacitors, and Faradol, for the compensator, that were to be used, McLaughlin said.

Edisol, manufactured by a company in Wisconsin, should not enter storm sewers, ditches or drains that lead to waterways, according to the 2014 siting board materials. Faradol, supplied by a company in France, should not be released into the environment, and should not be allowed to enter drains.

Although the specific names of Edisol and Faradol are not on the state's oil and hazardous material list, they possibly could be listed generically as transformer oil, said Edmund Coletta, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection. The state's cleanup rules require that certain spills or contaminated soil and groundwater be reported to the state agency so that an assessment and cleanup can begin. The reportable spill quantity for transformer oil is 10 gallons.

Town officials are concerned that under certain conditions, a leak of fluids could end up in the groundwater "within a couple days time" and into the town's drinking water well system within about seven days, McLaughlin said.

The switching station is located in groundwater protection and well protection districts approximately 2,500 feet north of two municipal water supply wells, one of which is owned by the Barnstable Fire District and one by the Hyannis Water Department, according to the 2014 siting board materials. The groundwater is 50 to 75 feet below the surface.

Cape Wind and NStar had proposed an alarm system, an on-site response within four hours and a concrete containment system as part of updated spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans that would include fire, health department and other officials. The release of 5 to 8 gallons of insulating fluid would reach a depth of only 4 feet before it would be cleaned up by the hazardous material contractor, according to the two companies.

But Cape Wind's intended offshore wind generation capacity of 468 megawatts — an estimated 170 megawatts of production on average — is substantially less than the 1,600 megawatts that could ultimately be generated by 2027 under the 2016 legislation, McLaughlin said.

The Hyannis water supply extends to the entire commercial downtown and Cape Cod Hospital and has already been the focus of pollution concerns.

Barnstable town officials have issued public health advisories for the Hyannis water system twice since 2015. In both instances, levels of the perfluorinated chemicals PFOS and PFOA above the Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory limits were found in wells serving 18,000 residents and businesses in Hyannis, Hyannisport and West Hyannisport.

The chemicals are typically found in the types of firefighting foams that have been used in the past at the Barnstable County Fire and Rescue Training Academy and Barnstable Municipal Airport. The contamination has sparked lawsuits over who is responsible for the pollution.

"The importance of getting this right can't be ignored," McLaughlin said of the latest proposed offshore wind energy connection.

Vineyard Wind intends to run its cable directly north, underwater, to Lewis Bay to a bulkhead at the end of New Hampshire Avenue in West Yarmouth, Stephens said at a public meeting in November at the Yarmouth Senior Center. From the bulkhead, the cable would run roughly 2 miles along Berry Avenue to Higgins Crowell Road and end up at the Eversource substation across the town line.

If the project moves forward, the laying of the cable is at least three years away, Stephens said.

A second cable route under consideration makes landfall in Barnstable, but the route to the substation is considered more densely developed and industrial than the Yarmouth route, Stephens said.

Towns also could levy a personal property tax on Vineyard Wind for the transmission cable snaking through their towns, estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

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