

Springfield Plan Commission Meeting  
Springfield Town Hall  
Monday, April 8, 2013

**Call to order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Jeff Gabrysiak. Jim Pulvermacher, Scott Laufenberg, Jeff Endres, Karen Crook and Elliott Long and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Jan Barman were present. Also present: Dan Dresen, Art Meinholz, Don Heilman, Tim Roehl and Dave Reible. Steve Resan excused absence. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Deputy Clerk Barman reported that notice of this meeting was met by posting at the Town Hall, corner of CTH K and Church Roads, and Schneider Road Business Center on Schneider Rd and website.

**Minutes for March 4, 2013**

**Motion (Endres/Laufenberg) to approve the March 4, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion carried, 6 – 0.**

**Public Comment:** Dave Reible inquired about constructing an addition to his building on Darlin Dr. It would be a 70' x 70' addition and would add another unit. Suggested Mr Reible check with Dane County Zoning for any regulations they may have and to review their current storm water plan on file to avoid any issues. He will need an easement agreement for access and he will need to file the design review application and return to the Plan Commission with his plans.

**Welcome to Steve Resan, elect Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Commission will welcome Steve Resan to the Plan Commission next meeting as he was unable to attend tonight.

**Motion (Long/Crook) for Jeff Gabrysiak to remain as Chair. Motion carried, 5 – 0 with Jeff Gabrysiak abstaining.**

**Motion (Gabrysiak/Pulvermacher) for Jeff Endres to remain as Vice-Chair. Motion carried, 5 – 0 with Jeff Endres abstaining.**

**Wind energy issues/ordinance – 2013 Assembly Bill 83/Senate 71 – Limiting the Regulation of Wind Energy Systems by Local Governments.**

Sen Lasee has introduced a bill that would give the local governments control of wind turbine siting and other concerns. Elliott stated that Sen Lasee's bill has a lot of non-factual, non-scientific, fabricated data and that there aren't any health risks. The studies that have been done are backed by oil/fossil fuel companies that are probably donating to Sen Lasee campaign. Elliot has done many hours of research on this issue. Overwhelming studies to prove this infrasound has been created. Psychogenic effect – you can talk yourself into a headache.

Dept of Energy-Berkeley Labs studied that there isn't any relationship between the wind turbines and the diminishment of property values. There is a study that showed that property values increased in these areas.

Sixteen hundred wind turbines in Australia and there isn't any reports of health issues. Congressional Research Center and the National Academy of Science (both non-bias) concluded after interviewing meteorologists and climatologists that the effect on climate change and global warming are caused by coal, oil and autos. But agriculture will be affected the most and will create severe impacts on the land. Ninety percent of the meteorologists agree that climate change/global warming is affecting our environment. We need to stop fossil fuels, reject this bill and rescind the moratorium on the wind turbines, so more turbines can be built.

Jim – These turbines are within the UW’s back door and they should be studying the effect(s) if any. Stop and wait to see if there are any problems and documentation to back these claims up. Ice can be thrown up to 2500’ off of the blades, flicker from the blades can cause traffic concerns. No more should be installed until we have all the facts.

Elliott – sandbagging this issue – Lasee’s bill, misunderstood attitudes.

Scott - is concerned about property values and would like to see what effect that will have on the subdivision homes that are near the turbines. Would like to see sales when people decide to sell their property.

Karen – as long as they are not operating, we really don’t have data to go by. Why aren’t they operating? We need something real and functional before more are installed.

Jeff E – tries to look at the big picture, will this be a win/win and make sense for the town and its residents, what is the life value and is the payback on a daily basis the best form of green energy for our town.

Jeff G – Nothing we do here will amount to a hill of beans, just symbolism. We need to work on other countries who burn dirty coal and pollution to improve their environment.

Jim – CUP is now needed but as Jeff G pointed out how can you regulate the hours of operation, you just can’t. You can regulate the distance to homes instead of 1250’ can make it 1750’.

Dan Dresen – comments - 1. Corporate America bought out 3 houses with problems, corporate America just doesn’t do that. 2. Communities in Germany are taking them down, but as Elliott pointed out they are putting more up in Austria. 3. Power Company swore up and down that stray voltage doesn’t exist but stray voltage does exist, will this happen here?

4. 29% is the expected capacity operation, but a manure digester will operate 24/7, 365 days/year why aren’t we backing more of these?

Elliott – We are desperate to get off of oil and coal, because of all the health hazards that they create.

Art Meinholz – 1. A company the size of Epic, you would trust that they did the research and homework and with the County’s support, then why did they overlook the power issue to operate these turbines? Something just doesn’t make sense. 2. Everyone should watch the movie “Windfall,” it is a documentary with the film people’s point of view but in the extra credits the crew that filmed these turbines for 5 days straight pitied the people who live there (195 turbines in this county and some homes were within 600 feet of turbines). The crew went in with the attitude of great, green energy, etc and came away with an entirely different attitude.

We need wind to make them go, so we will always need coal and nuke plants for backups when the turbines are not producing. Need to look at scientific data but someone is playing a game for why they aren’t operating. Watch the movie and you will see what Art is referring to.

Jim – every 5 years these companies can roll over the turbines and fully depreciate them again for up to 5 times to receive the energy credits, these companies are only in it for the money.

Elliott – how about a compromise, slow it down and contact Sen Lasee to take out the fabricated information. Need more data to make a good decision.

Jim – informed Elliott that the Town Board, DCTA and WTA have sent letters to Sen Lasee in support of his bill.

**Motion (Long/Gabrysiak) for the Town Board to rescind their letter of support for Sen Lasee’s bill and to maintain control. Motion denied, 2 - 4.**

Town Board and Plan Commission need to have a working meeting on this issue and create an ordinance.

**Yahara Pride Farms– Don Heilman and Jeff Endres gave a presentation on Yahara Pride Farms, which is a voluntary program with the backing of the Clean Lakes Alliance.** The Clean Lakes Alliance was started in 2007, is a non-profit organization and their funds are from the corporate businesses committed to cleaning up our lakes. Last year they had \$1 million in revenue. They have a community board made up of top government agencies and private sector executives. Recruiting and retention issues give them a feel good feeling. Once they stopped blaming the ag industry for all the problems with our lakes and concluded that urbanization causes about 50% of the problems, they were able to bring the ag industry into this program and work to find solutions.

Yahara Pride Farms was then formed and on the Board are Walter Meinholz, Chuck Ripp, Jeff Endres, Will Hensen, Bob Uphoff and Scott Maier (farmers from the DeForest, Dane, Vienna, Springfield and Waunakee areas). In 2005 there was a major run-off event (manure spilled into a watershed and killed a great number of fish) which lead to the development of a winter spread ordinance. Yahara Pride Farms was organized as a “brand” to sell to farmers and urbanites. They are concentrating on the Dorn Creek watershed area at this time. There is another organization working in the Pheasant Branch area called Yahara Wins. How it works now is the County acts as the broker, the money comes in and they do a practice on the farm, MSD takes the credit for the work, the County approves what was done and that creates the data basis for it.

Held a Yahara Pride farmer meeting – watershed wide – had 100 attendees, 4 demos were offered to participate in, ie. vertical manure injection hoping to introduce more into Dane County and strip tillage where you strip just an 8” wide path to plant the crop. Opportunities to learn new ways to protect our lakes are continuing to be developed:

1. Hire Farm Resouce person to assist with BMPs (best management practices) and cost share program
2. Organize 2013 Fall Cover Crop Program
3. Organize Field Tillage Demos – Soil Warrior
4. Launch Yahara Pride certification program
5. Recognize and publicize good farm practices
6. Build “brand” of Yahara Pride
7. Communicate and educate new technologies in conservation.

They now monitor the edge of the field to determine what is running off into the lakes instead of monitoring the lakes, these monitors are at Dorn Creek and Cty M and Cty Q.

We have to change the mindset of the people because they do not change easily, need to have incentives to accept changes. A very informative and interesting presentation.

**FUDA Study** – Jan gave a brief update on the FUDA Study and asked that the Commission consider accepting or endorsing the FUDA Study (including the Health Impact Analysis and Environmental Conditions Report) for future use as a tool when making land use plans and updating our Comprehensive Land Use Plan (probably next year). The commission would like additional time to review the data, will be on our next agenda for action.

**Communications/Announcements**

Jeff E – Asked if the new house being built on Hwy 19 is where we thought it was going to be? The commissioners believe it is, as the lot is small and has wetland issues.

Distributed the comp plan with the TDR included, hard copies and CD were passed out.

Jan asked if, there isn't anything for our next meeting, (nothing at this time) would they like to schedule a working meeting with the Town Board on the wind turbine issue/ordinance. They said that would be up to the Town Board.

**Adjourn**

**Motion (Laufenberg/Pulvermacher) to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.**

Jan Barman  
Deputy Clerk Treasurer