

## CLC MEETING MINUTES

CLC Meeting – September 16, 2015; 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Pioneer Rooms -714519 Middletown Line Woodstock, ON

Members Present: Alan Dale, Larry Martin, Susan Shaw, David Steenburg

Regrets: Amy Lickers, Evert Veldhuizen

Guests: Liam Duffy, RES (The windfarm general contractor)

### 1. Introductions:

The Committee members introduced themselves to each other and the audience. The guest, Liam Duffy was introduced by Susan Shaw, who had invited him to help address any questions from the Committee. Carr Villabroza of Prowind introduced as being present to take meeting minutes and assist the Committee. The three members of the audience were asked to introduce themselves.

### 2. Overview of Committee and Process

Susan Shaw provided some background information on the Committee: As part of Gunn's Hill Windfarm's Renewable Energy Approval, a community liaison committee is required to exchange ideas, share concerns and link residents and members of the public to the wind farm owners.

A handout was distributed which included: Terms of Reference, CLC members list, Gunn's Hill Windfarm contacts and information, project map, copy of notice of the meeting that was published in the Woodstock Sentinel.

Meetings are open to the public to attend and observe. Not knowing the Committee's preference, the notice of the meeting asked that members of the public who wished to address the Committee make arrangements beforehand. No requests were received.

It was generally agreed by the Committee that members of the audience that evening could participate and ask questions.

### 3. Discussion Regarding Map:

As a general introduction to the project, the project layout was reviewed. The map shows locations of the ten turbines. Black dotted lines are electric lines, entirely underground. Not very well shown are access roads. Some turbines are accessed via existing laneways, some new entrances.

Construction will begin this fall for access roads. Road building will start in two weeks depending on landowners /crops. In the spring, the turbine foundations are going to be put in place. Construction will be complete by approx. end of September 2016. This year's construction will involve gravel trucks. Next spring – wind turbine parts are coming in (blades, etc.).

The work this year is mostly on private land, but with a couple of new entrances on the road. There will be potential disruption due to equipment like gravel trucks on the local roads. We will include traffic control. In the spring, underground cables will be put in, again, minimal disruption (May or June 2016). Will include traffic control. Middletown Line and Firehall Road will be where the disruption will be. Ministry of Transport will help determine if roads need to be closed down. They will try to keep both lanes open.

For the underground cables, they are buried at least one meter below ground level.

In response to questions from the audience, Liam Duffy said that the underground cables are in plastic conduit and that they are large insulated wires. The cables are insulated and have a 60 year lifespan. The wind farm will be decommissioned within 20 years. In response to a follow up question, will they deteriorate under the ground? Mr, Duffy said no.

Mr. Martin asked in terms of placement of the turbines, how close are they going to be to the residents?

Susan Shaw responded that the minimum required is 550 meters. For the neighbours who have testified against the project in the ERT hearings, the closest one is 661 meters to their house. The houses of others who testified are significantly farther (up to 1112 meters)

#### **4. Communication/Notices:**

Susan Shaw addressed Gunn's Hill wind farm contacts and information. In the near future, notices, announcements will be set up on [www.gunnshillwind.ca](http://www.gunnshillwind.ca). As well, a project hotline for issues on construction, noise, dust is set up. Toll free no. is 1-888-702-6915. Messages are recorded and as soon as registered on the line, email notices are sent out to a number of people to alert them that there is a messages waiting.

In addition to the website and hotline, the Committee asked what other methods of communication would be used. They requested a notice that construction is starting would be sent to neighbours. Prowind agreed to send out an email to their stakeholder list with this notice, in addition to having signs at the project site with the website and hotline number.

#### **5. Minutes**

The Committee members asked how are minutes of this meeting circulated?

Once the committee has approved the minutes, they are sent to the ministry, and are posted on the website. Because the committee doesn't meet often, the Committee agreed to review and approve minutes via email, so that they can be approved and posted sooner than waiting until the next meeting.

**6. Next Meeting Date:**

After some discussion, the Committee determined to set its next meeting on November 11, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 at the same location.

**7. Questions from Committee members and audience:**

- a. There was a question about turbine lifespan and what happens after 25 years?

Susan Shaw responded: The contract with the province for electricity is for 20 years, and the contract with landowners that the turbines are to be taken down six months after they cease operation. The equipment comes with 20-25 years warranty. If there is a market after 0 years, then they could theoretically still function a while longer. Landowners have a say if they want to continue after 30 years.

At the end of the turbine life, the land needs to be able to be farmed again, so it is removed to allow for that.

- b. A questions was asked about the status of the ERT hearing. Susan Shaw replied that there was no word yet.

**8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.**

