

CLC Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2016

Oxford Centre Hall – 7:00pm-8:30pm

Members Present: Susan Shaw  
Alan Dale  
Larry Martin  
Tabitha Curley  
David Steenburg

Regrets: Evert Veldhuizen

Guests: Rochelle Rumney  
Heather Shilton  
Helmut Schneider

**Time Start: 7:06 pm**

Introduction

Susan Shaw apologized for miscommunication regarding the date of the last meeting which was rescheduled from October to November. Broad notice of rescheduling was not provided, though it was agreed upon by the Board members. An apology was given to the audience. Introductions were then provided by members of the board and guests.

Approval of Minutes

It was confirmed that everyone had received the minutes from the last meeting via e-mail. Susan then explained that once they are approved, they are posted on the Gunn's Hill website and sent to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). Larry Martin suggested the Board had already approved the minutes via e-mail, which David Steenburg agreed with. Susan suggested the Board should approve them here officially. An official motion was made by Larry to approve the minutes of the June 27 meeting. The motion was seconded by David. Motion carried by the Board.

Construction update

Susan confirmed the wind farm was in operation and construction was complete. The aviation lights are also operational. Some further landscaping and reclamation work is required, though it has been mostly completed. The turbines are entirely functional and Prowind declared commercial operation on November 14, 2016. Authorizations from Hydro One to generate electricity have been received. Operation of the first turbine occurred in October, while the last turbine began operation one week ago today.

Susan asked if there were any further questions.

**Question from Alan:** There are two locations with extra gravel on the side of the road. What is the status of this?

**Answer from Susan:** On Curries Road, we had put in fill, take out bush, and fill up the shoulder to expand the road for turning trucks. The county has not yet reviewed it, but it has been reclaimed. The other area of road construction was the intersection of Curries Road and Middletown Line. Instead of building up the road, we made the stop sign removable. This way, we didn't have to do anything to the Township portion of the road.

**Answer from Larry:** There was also a potential for construction at the intersection of Firehall Road and Middletown Line, but this area was not used so there is nothing to reclaim.

**Question from the Audience:** Is there an overview or assessment done on those roads by the county?

**Answer from Susan:** The County did a review of construction, but did not request a follow-up whereas the Township did request a follow-up. Firehall Road and Middletown Line were altered. The Public Works superintendent looked at it. There was a section of Middletown Line that the engineers said was not in great condition, though they did another survey and the results of that survey will determine if there has been any erosion to the road. The Township is holding a deposit in case there is anything left unfixed.

From here on out, the project is mostly in operations and maintenance mode.

### Monitoring

Rochelle Rumney explained that as per the Renewable Energy Approval (REA), it is required that monitoring of bird and bat impact be done within the first three years post construction. This monitoring will be done between May and November for the three years following construction. This begins in the spring of 2017. If there is any impact found, mitigation measures will be put in place and then an additional year of monitoring will be required.

Rochelle further explained that in terms of noise monitoring, this is required within the first year of operation. Noise monitoring is required to be performed on two separate dates, the first of which must be within the first 12 months while the second date must be within the first 18 months. This monitoring must be performed when there is likely to be the most noise from the turbine, which is when the ambient noise is the lowest (ie, at night). All of the results from this monitoring will be submitted to the MOECC, and will also be available on the Gunn's Hill website.

**Question from the Audience:** Is there already a plan in place for bird and bat mitigation should this be required?

**Answer from Rochelle:** These strategies were put in the monitoring plan as a part of the REA. In terms of mitigation, you can feather the blades (slow the turbines during periods of time where birds/bats are likely to be flying) or in extreme cases, you can stop the turbines entirely during migration periods.

**Answer from Susan:** You can also increase the threshold for when the turbines operate. They could be programed to only operate in higher wind speeds where birds and bats are less likely to be flying.

**Question from the Audience:** You can turn them off if this is a problem?

**Answer from Susan:** Yes.

**Answer from Rochelle:** These are part of the REA documents which are on the Gunn's Hill website. Mitigation strategies would also be discussed with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

#### Community Fund

**Question from Larry:** Two meetings ago we discussed who was to select the projects for the community fund. Have we decided if this Board would make that decision or is it the Oxford Community Energy Co-operative (OCEC)?

**Answer from Susan:** That was discussed last meeting, this group decided not to be involved. It will go to OCEC.

**Answer from Helmut:** The Board of Directors on OCEC will discuss the projects. The parameters of the fund are straightforward and there is a possibility for matching funds to be established which would increase the community benefit. Various opportunities are being considered and they will be communicated.

**Answer from Alan:** There will be a process developed for submitting ideas, though OCEC is still working on it. The first project will not be granted for another year, so there is still time to develop this process.

#### Committee Meeting Schedule

This committee was established under the REA, but it also sets out the parameters for the committee. Under the terms of the REA, we are required to have one more meeting within the next year, then depending on community interest, we can decide whether we want to continue hosting them. Larry suggested having a meeting in June once the first round of bird and bat monitoring takes place. Rochelle noted the report for the monitoring may not be available until December as the consultants do a full years worth of monitoring. July was suggested as there may be some preliminary data available from the monitoring at that time. The meeting is required to take place before September of 2017. July 17, 2017 was agreed upon for the next meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at the Pioneer Rooms at 7:00pm.

Susan asked if there were any further questions from the audience.

**Question from the Audience:** When the project started, automatic transformers were switched to manual which made the supply volatile. Has this been returned to normal?

**Answer from Susan:** That should have calmed down sometime in September. This was when the transformers were returned to automatic. A live test was performed a few weeks ago on the automatic system to ensure the load transfer was functional and the test was positive.

Susan then provided e-mail address to audience member should he have any further questions.

**Question from Tabitha:** Are all turbines fully operational now?

**Answer from Susan:** Yes.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.**