

## RECAP Working Session July 28, 2009

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The Wind Facilities project team met July 28, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 4:15pm at Pitt Center. Team Members Ed Cowell, Mike Florez, Jim Millis, Bob Palombo, Merrie Smith and Nancy Wendt were present. Team Member Joe Archibald was absent but submitted his comments in advance.

Guests included: Hal Denny (Southern Shores, resident); Manny Medeiros (Kill Devil Hills, resident); Jessica Horbach (Coastland Times)

Project Kickoff – Mike Florez thanked the volunteers who have joined the team and briefly reviewed the NC open meetings process that will be followed for all team meetings. Public Notice will be given in advance and meetings will be open to the public. The team will meet at the Pitts Center and minutes will be made available for public examination shortly after each meeting. The project team welcomes public input, but reserves the right to limit the amount of time allocated to public comments during working sessions.

### Statement of Work (SOW)

The first agenda item was the SOW for the Wind Facilities Project. After some discussion about the broader debate on alternative energy, Mike Florez and Nancy Wendt clarified that the focus of this project is Southern Shores land use policy as it pertains to wind generation facilities (e.g., wind turbines, supporting towers, and energy storage and distribution equipment.)

The Wind Facilities Plan will address the following land use policy questions:

1. Should wind facilities be permitted within Southern Shores?
2. If so, where within Southern Shores should wind facilities be permitted and where not?
3. If so, should wind facilities be a permitted use by right or a conditional use? And, if a condition use, what conditions should apply to them?

Merrie Smith reminded the group of the Town ordinance passed on July 7, 1998 that states:

1. "Windmills and wind driven electric generators are excluded from the definition of Accessory Use."
2. "Windmills and wind driven generators used for the generation of electric power are prohibited in all zoning districts."

### Initial Research Work

Prior to developing its recommendations, the team will investigate three areas. First the team will prepare a brief summary of the current state of alternative energy policy at the federal and state level (e.g., the national objective to reduce dependence on foreign oil, current tax incentives and subsidies to encourage the development of alternative energy sources and legislation that applies to the regulation of alternative energy infrastructure.) The purpose of this summary is to understand the context for alternative energy regulation and to anticipate how actions at the Federal and State level will likely affect Southern Shores. Mike Florez will focus on this area.

Second, the team will complete a high level assessment of alternative wind generation technologies, the possible impacts of each and methods for mitigating any potentially negative

impacts if they occur. Potential negative impacts to be evaluated include: safety of wind facilities in a hurricane zone, typical levels of operating noise and/or vibration, potential impact on wildlife (birds), compatibility with neighborhood aesthetics and technical precautions that are needed if wind generation facilities are connected to the public power grid. Jim Millis will focus on this area in general. Ed Cowell will focus on the connection to the public power grid.

The third area of research focuses on what other municipalities are doing with their zoning ordinances for wind facilities. The team will review local practices in Dare County, Currituck County and the rest of NC. The team will also look for examples of best practice in coastal communities across the US. This information will provide a foundation for drafting a proposed wind facilities ordinance for Southern Shores. Mary Smith will focus on this area of research.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Citizen Forum

The first citizen forum on wind generation facilities has two objectives. The first is to share the results of the team's research and to educate the community regarding wind generation technology. The second objective is to understand what the community thinks about the possibility of wind facilities in Southern Shores. In particular, it is important for the team to understand the community's thinking about potentially negative impacts of wind facilities that will need to be mitigated if wind facilities are permitted.

#### Research Resources

Mike Florez identified Appalachian State, AWEA (the American Wind Energy Association) and the Information and Reference Guide provide by Jim Millis as a starting point for the group. Team members agreed to think about additional resources including potential guest speakers or panelists for the 1<sup>st</sup> Citizen Forum.

#### Next Steps

Mike will check everyone's calendar and set it up the next team meeting sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Meeting Adjourned 4:15 PM.