

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
PLAN COMMISSION MEETING  
February 9, 2022, 5:00 PM

Members Present: Amy Alpine, Greg Fahrman, Dustin Hurtgen, Bob Solberg, Karen Tomesh

Town Staff Present: Janelle Henning

County Staff Present: Rod Eslinger

Members/Staff Absent: Andy Madson

**1 Approve Minutes of the January 12, 2022 Plan Commission Meeting**

Motion by Comm'r Solberg and seconded by Comm'r Fahrman to approve the minutes from October 6, 2021. Motion passes 5-0

**2 Wind Energy Presentation – Rod Eslinger, Eau Claire County Planning & Development**

**a. Purpose of presentation is to provide general information to Town residents with large tracts of land**

Chairperson Karen Tomesh provided background on what the Plan Commission has been learning, reviewing and the purpose of the meeting. The meeting was attended by approximately 15 Town residents and 5 from other towns.

Rod Eslinger, Director of Planning & Development for Eau Claire County presented an overview of Wind Energy regulations and the history of when the County was first made aware of a company pursuing a possible wind energy farm in the County. To date, no applications have been filed with the County. A map of wind energy easements that have been filed with the County was reviewed; just less than 3700 acres are now under easement throughout Eau Claire County. He spoke of the Administrative Code that directed the WI Public Service Commission to set a State standard in 2009. In March of 2012 that rule became effective and any local municipality needs to comply with the standards set forth by the State and cannot be more restrictive than PSC 128. RWE is the wind energy company that is looking at having a 200 megawatt wind farm in Eau Claire County; with approximately 40 to 70 wind turbines. Wind energy systems would require a conditional use permit from the County. The County is currently updating their code and will be adopting PSC 128. He reviewed farmland preservation and why landowners under this designation need to be aware of penalties they will be subject to if a wind energy easement becomes effective.

Plan Commission members spoke of their consultation with an attorney in January regarding options for the Town of Washington. Plan Commission members and citizens discussed the issue.

**4 Next meeting March 9, 2022**

Finalize discussion on wind energy  
Review and discussion of a subdivision ordinance

**6 Adjournment**

Comm'r Solberg moved to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Attendance: Dessy Johnson, Allen Strey, John Grump, Kris Sivertson, Jose Padilla, Todd Hehli, Kyle Nyseth, Sue Waits, Brian Binczak, Kyle Brown, Kathy Campbell, Brian Herbison, Kevin Stelljes, Sylvia Bare, John Drawbert