

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board

May 12, 2015

Recreation/Inspections Office, 20 Sanderson Street

7:00 p.m.

EDC CALL TO ORDER Chairman Devlin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

EDC PRESENT Councilors Devlin, Hirschfeld, Maloni, Ricketts and Ronhave.

EDC ABSENT None.

PLANNING BOARD CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Wedegartner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Roxann Wedegartner ; Vice Chairwoman Linda Smith and members Virginia Desorgher; and David Moscaritolo.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Pottorn and George Touloumtzis

ALSO PRESENT GCTV-15 staff; Kathleen McKiernan, *the Recorder*, and members of the public.

CHAIRMAN STATEMENT: Chairman Devlin read the following statement: This meeting was being recorded by the Economic Development Committee. If any other persons present were doing the same they must notify the chairperson at this time. It was noted that GCTV and Chris Collins for WHAI was recording the meeting. (GCTV recording device malfunctions, no record of the meeting were available)

PUBLIC HEARING Chairman Devlin and Chairwoman Wedegartner opened the respective Public Hearing's at 6:05 pm. Chairman Devlin read the Public Hearing notice: The Greenfield Town Council Economic Development Committee and Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Inspections/Enforcement Department, 20 Sanderson St., 2nd Floor, to consider the following proposed new section to the Greenfield Zoning Ordinance on Biomass and Wood Burning Facilities:

~ 200-7.19. Biomass and Wood Burning Facilities

This proposed new section to the Greenfield Zoning Ordinance would regulate any new or existing commercial biomass facilities, located in the Town of Greenfield, for thermal, electricity or Combined Heat and Power (CHP) use. The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to minimize wood smoke exposure to the residents of Greenfield by establishing clear and enforceable standards that take into consideration already existing uses of wood for fuel and the need to reduce air pollution exposures.

The Town Council may consider the same on Wed., May 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at GCTV-15 Studio, 393 Main St. Materials can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office, 14 Court Sq. from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri. or phone 413-772-1555, ext. 6163 or at the Department of Planning and Development at 114 Main St. from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri. or phone at 413-772-1549.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Patrick Devlin, Economic Development Committee

Chairwoman Roxann Wedegartner, Planning Board

Chairman Devlin asked if anyone wanted to speak. The following spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance:

- Richard Stafursky, 155 Belmont Ave., Brattleboro Vermont:
 - Requested the boards enact the strongest anti biomass ordinance possible.
 - Submitted and summarized Attachment A.
- William Keck, 59 Haywood Street, Greenfield:
 - Chairman Devlin stated Mr. Keck attempted to attend but had to leave due to an asthma attack. Mr. Devlin read the letter attached "B" submitted by Mr. Keck.
- Beth Adams, 72 Juggler meadow Road, Leverett:
 - Spoke of her health history as a non-smoker including asthma and lung cancer.
 - Read the attached letter "C" from the American Lung Association.
- Sandy Kosterman, 141 Barton Road, Greenfield:
 - Read the attached letter "D" and an email from Susan Ribeiro attachment "E" who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- Janet Sinclair, Ashfleid Street, Shelburne Ma.:

- Stated she was a member of the Biomass Advisory Board who proposed the language for the ordinance.
- Reasons and history for proposal of ordinance.
- The State of Massachusetts was currently providing incentives to heat with wood.
- Lack of regulations from the state for Biomass facilities or wood burning facilities less than 300 BTU's.
- NYSERDA - New York State Energy Research and Development Authority – documents were a large reference source for language used in the ordinance.
- By adopting this ordinance Greenfield would be a leader in Massachusetts.
- Tom Neilson, 37 Solar Way, Greenfield:
 - Spoke of his work history in Education and Greenfield Public Health.
 - The high rate of asthma in Greenfield.
 - Relation between asthma, cancer, and heart disease relating to particulate matter.
 - Urged support for the proposed ordinance.
- Mary Booth, 54 Arnold Road, Pelham, Ma:
 - Stated she was a member of the Biomass Advisory Board who proposed the language for the ordinance.
 - The committee largely recommended language adopted from the NYSERTA regulations.
 - Particulate matter and thresholds for emissions
 - The ordinance would not put an extra burden on the majority of people.
 - Strongly urged passage of the proposal.
- Michael Garden, 7 Fairfield Ave, Easthampton, Ma:
 - Was opposed to wood burning stoves.
 - His business was building Catalytic Vacuum Pyrolysis (CVP) units. He has built 2, 1 locally and 1 in Texas. These units burn materials at a very high temperature so as not to emit partial into the air.
 - The materials produced within the CVP units were able to be utilized, such as oil.
 - Rather than banning Biomass, he urged the committee to investigate ever changing technologies which would benefit the community.
- Tom Burden, Sandri Energy of Greenfield:
 - Not all biomass burners were the same.
 - Technology was improving in the field of Biomass.
 - Referenced a letter to the Mayor from DOER (it was noted either the EDC or Planning Board had received a copy of this letter) and a letter sent to the Town Council today from Sandri.
 - Work being done by Massachusetts agencies regarding technology and policy relating to Biomass.
 - The use of varying types of fuel maximizes the resiliency of our fuel systems.
- Jesse Weeks, 322 Adams Road, Greenfield:
 - Read attachment "F".
 - This ordinance doesn't preclude businesses it encourages growth.
 - He spoke in favor of the ordinance noting it was tailored to the specific needs of Greenfield.
 - The idea of limiting the size in the ordinance was simple.
- Hazel Dawkins, 91 Smith Street, #307, Greenfield:
 - Spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance and asked the committee to approve the language.
 - The town would benefit from the existence of this ordinance.
 - Greenfield air quality was poor.

Chairperson Wedegartner stated the Planning Board had little input into the currently language in the ordinance. They will review and make recommendations at their May 21, 2015 meeting. She invited Chairperson Devlin and the EDC membership to attend the May meeting.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Maloni, it was unanimously
VOTED: TO CLOSE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M.

MOTION: On a motion by Planning Board Member Smith, second by Planning Board Member Desorgher, it was unanimously

VOTED: TO CLOSE THE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AND ADJOURN AT 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Wedegartner and the planning board noted the following sections or questions of language in the proposed ordinance:

- The lack of a definition for “Residential Biomass Facility”.
- No power plants were allowed.
- Consider allowing as a special permit in the “RA” zone only.
- Upgrading language in section I 1.
- Section J 1 - amend for site plan review to be done by the ZBA.
- Section J (a) – what were the reasons for having independent party preformed efficiencies verifications.

Chairman Devlin stated letters received from NYCERTA and Mass Clean Energy would be forwarded to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Eric Twarog.

It was noted the Town Council would consider the ordinance at their June meeting. The Zoning Board would be asked for comments.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Maloni, it was unanimously
VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:25 P.M.