



**Community Liaison Committee for
Higgins Mountain II Wind Farm Project**

MEETING NOTES

November 19th, 2019 - 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club House, Folly Lake

In attendance:

Interim CLC Chair: Helen Browne (Verterra)

CLC Members: Gregor Wilson, Bob MacLean, Mike Eddy, Councillor Barbara Palmer and Adrian Dobson

Higgins Partnership: Graham Findlay (3G Energy), Dan Eaton (Elemental Energy) by phone

Regrets: Garfield Moffatt, Karen Henderson, Paul Pynn (Katalyst Energy)

Action items:

- **Higgins Partnership:** Confirm that there will be insurance coverage for any future wind farm and provide details.
 - **Paul Pynn, Katalyst Energy:** Provide an update on three existing wind turbines.
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1. Welcome and refreshments

- Councillor Tom Taggart was welcomed to the CLC, he is the Councillor for the Colchester including Folly Lake, Londonderry and Sutherlands Lake.
- Dan Eaton from Elemental Energy attended by phone and introduced himself.

2. Review of Agenda

- Agenda was reviewed and approved.
- Bob highlighted that the question of insurance was not addressed, this was discussed later in the meeting (see notes below).

3. Approval of Notes from May 6th Meeting and Update on Actions

- There were no comments on the Notes from the previous meeting.
- **Action Item:** Circulate post construction monitoring report from 2007 development

Action complete. A copy of the post construction monitoring report was circulated with the meeting package

- **Action Item:** Ask if Northern Pulp wish to be CLC member

Action complete. Northern Pulp do not wish to become members of the CLC, however they are happy to attend a meeting at the request of the CLC.

- **Action Item:** Work to identify and recruit a CLC member to represent Sutherlands Lake – continued action from previous meeting in March

Action complete. Councillor Tom Taggart will represent the Sutherlands Lake area.

4. Project Update

- The Higgins Mountain Partnership confirmed that there are no new activities on the project and that the only work currently being conducted is the community consultation.
- **Policy Update:** Helen explained how the Federal Government of Canada has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Government of Nova Scotia to supply their federal facilities in Nova Scotia with 100% renewable energy by 2025. The press release can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20190801002>.
This means that there is likely to be approximately 30-40MW of new wind energy in the province.
Nova Scotia's department of Energy and Mines is currently developing new energy policy with a view to announcing a procurement process in late 2020/early 2021.
- **Nova Scotia Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)** – Nova Scotia Power is currently determining and planning their long term operational requirements through an IRP process. This plan will study the amount of electricity that is likely required in the Province and how NSPI will supply that electricity. The

Higgins Partnership are tracking this public process closely.

- **KMK Benefits Committee:** Paul Pynn and Helen Browne presented to the KMK Benefits Committee in Millbrook on September 13th. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce the KMK Benefits Committee to the project and the proponents. The presentation covered the project details in terms location and potential size, project history, the Higgins Partnership team and work to date.

5. Community Update

- Gregor explained, for the benefit of Tom Taggart, that he and Ski Wentworth are 100% in support of wind energy but forcefully against the proposed Higgins Mountain Wind Farm. Their concerns lie in a belief that the wind farm will hurt the tourism industry in Wentworth Valley which Ski Wentworth is dependent on. No facts or studies were presented in support of this belief and Gregor's matter did not trigger much further discussion about the merits of the wind farm. No decision ensued.
- There was a discussion about turbine positions and Gregor urged the developers to reveal the previously planned turbine layout. Graham and Dan advised that this would be pointless at this time because the choice of wind turbine has not been determined and future wind turbine size will determine how many machines will be needed and where they will be placed. This information will be provided at a time in the future when a procurement opportunity triggers a turbine choice.
- Insurance was highlighted as an outstanding question from the previous meeting and it was suggested that insurance details be provided to the CLC as an action item before the next meeting. The group will then have the opportunity to ask any questions on this subject at the next meeting.
- There was confusion regarding a loan provided to Northern Pulp (the landowner) from the Province and whether this was for all land owned by Northern Pulp or just that land at Higgins Mountain. Members of the CLC confirmed that it was all land owned by Northern Pulp, not just Higgins land.
- Gregor confirmed that the new Provincial Wilderness Area and Nova Scotia Nature Trust land is on the eastern side of the Wentworth Valley, opposite Higgins Mountain.

6. Chair Position

- A motion was made by Gregor Wilson and seconded by Mike Eddy to accept Garfield Moffatt as CLC Chair for the coming year.
- All CLC members present voted in support.

- Helen will contact Garfield to let him know and update him on the meeting

7. Next CLC meeting date and proposed agenda

- Everyone agreed that the next CLC meeting should be in mid to late May, this is unless something unforeseen happens in the meantime that warrants a meeting i.e. a procurement process announced. Any earlier is a very busy time for Councillors with municipal budgeting process.
- Everyone agreed that the Doodle Poll was a good way to select an appropriate meeting date.
- All agreed that the by-laws for wind energy in Colchester and Cumberland County should be an agenda item for the next meeting. The CLC will invite Nelson Bezanson, Municipal Planner for Cumberland to attend the meeting and present by-laws for Cumberland County. Tom Taggart was involved in the creation of the Colchester County by-laws and will present them at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7.45pm

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#### **List of Future Agenda Items/Guest Speakers**

##### Environmental Assessment:

- Invite a representative from Department of Environment to explain the EA process

##### Land:

- Invite the current landowners, Northern Pulp as guests
- Discuss other users and uses of the land in general i.e. what future uses are allowed alongside wind turbines, clear cutting, recreational activities etc.
- Mitigation of damage to sensitive species during construction of a wind farm

##### County By-laws

- Invite Nelson Bezanson from County of Cumberland to talk about county by-laws for wind turbines.

##### Wind Turbine Insurance:

- Understand developer/county/landowner/insurance liabilities and limitations for various scenarios.

##### Community Consultation:

- CLC role should change in circumstance i.e. change of ownership, project is built and becomes operational
- Community consultation plan as the project evolves.
- Recommendation from the CLC on how to best contact community members.