



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

**AGENDA**

Date: Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ADT

Location: Video Conference Call (details below)

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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### **Attendees – by invite only**

CLC Chair: Garfield Moffatt

CLC Members: Mary Beth Bowie, Adrian Dobson, Mike Eddy, Rene LeClerc, Councillor Kathy Redmond, MLA Tom Taggart, Gregor Wilson

Guests invited: Dr. Karen Beazley (Professor at Dalhousie University, School for Resource and Environmental Studies), Craig Harris (Folly Lake resident), Darlene Grant Fiander (President at TIANs), Lisa Dahr (Director at TIANs), Tanice Mundle (Executive Assistant at TIANs), Councillor Victoria Lomond (Colchester County, District 10)

Regrets: Dr. Karen Beazley (Professor at Dalhousie University, School for Resource and Environmental Studies), Mary Beth Bowie, Darlene Grant Fiander (President at TIANs), Lisa Dahr (Director at TIANs), Tanice Mundle (Executive Assistant at TIANs), MLA Tom Taggart, Graham Findlay (Rob Miller of 3G Energy attended in his absence)

Higgins Partnership: Dan Eaton (Elemental Energy), Maryam Baksh (Elemental Energy), Paul Pynn (Stevens Wind), Graham Findlay (3G Energy)

### **Agenda**

6:00pm      Welcome and introductions

- Victoria introduced herself as the newly elected Councillor in Colchester County. Gar proposed that she join the CLC as a recurring member.
- Craig introduced himself as a resident of Folly Lake, interested in learning more about the project and impacts.
- Rob Miller introduced himself from 3G Energy as standing in for Graham

6:05pm Approval of agenda. All approved

6:05pm Review of notes from previous meeting. All approved the minutes.

6:10pm Takeaways from Open House #1 and Council meeting

- Open House #1
  - 83 attendees signed in and over 100 attendees estimated to be in attendance
  - 18 feedback forms completed
  - ~40 emails submitted following open house, 90% of which followed similar format
  - Main themes in feedback:
    - **Concerns:** visual impacts, noise (including low frequency), turbine and wind farm size, health concerns, property values, meeting timing, ownership structure/profits leaving Nova Scotia, local telecommunications impacts, environmental impacts, concerned about turbines being abandoned, light pollution from flashing red LED lights
    - **Supportive:** support for renewable energy generally, several supportive if (i) numbers of turbines reduced and (ii) visual impacts mitigated, several people supportive of wind farm as-is
    - **Information:** more visual simulations, more information on turbines (dimensions, model, etc.), more info on who will benefit from the project,
  - Had some issues with late poster boards and went with a Q&A format
  - Overall had a lot of very interesting discussions with residents and team received valuable feedback
  - Incorporated feedback from Open House #1 for Open House #2. Open House #1 was intended to be introductory to collect feedback from the community to inform further stages of project development
  - All discussed thoughts and shared feedback from Open House #1
- Council Meeting
  - Presented to council on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and discussed the project, including a debrief of the Open House
  - Heard concerns about being blindsided about turbines being in county

- Higgins Team surprised to hear this
- Presented to Colchester County at a meeting in Feb 2021 before we had layout but showed project area map which overlapped both counties
- Also noted that Tom Taggart had attended meetings
- Paul Smith, Will Balsner came to CLC, Paul Smith took away no turbines in Colchester County
- Acknowledged miscommunication
- Questions about levels of support at Open House
  - Responded that it was difficult to gauge in that type of forum; many residents voiced support but not unless changes were made (i.e. visuals)
  - Received stakeholder forms and there was a broad cross-section of opinions noted; of 18 feedback forms completed relatively even split of negative vs positive/neutral
  - Proponent made significant changes to the project design as a consequence of the Open House and CLC feedback and look forward to presenting to the community soon
- Questions about lack of consultation with staff and development permit
  - Higgins team has consulted with the county staff on multiple occasions; each instance was not noted at Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting
  - Team well aware of bylaws through bylaw review and discussion with staff – Project meets all requirements in both counties

6:50pm          Project update

- Significant updates to turbine layout based on feedback from Open House and CLC
- Open House #2 scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>
- Taking additional photos based on new requests and improving photos since last Open House
- Will present a subset of photo simulations today for discussion and more at Open House
- New RFP draft came through last week – changes mostly minor (minimum criteria, max price, scoring)
- Timing is for final RFP in early 2022 and proposals submitted in March 2022

7:20pm          Review updated layout and visual simulations

- Gar provided background and overview of community-led independent visual impact analysis based on one of the example 150 MW layouts
- Higgins team presented visual impact analysis based on the new 18 turbine layout and

showed significant reductions in visible turbines from various vantage points

8:00pm      Next CLC meeting date and proposed agenda

- Gar suggested a meeting early in the New Year once there's more clarity on the RFP

8:20pm      Adjournment

**Adjourned at 8:20pm**