



Office of Planning & Codes

Wiscasset Ordinance Review Committee Meeting Notes August 25, 2008

Members Present: Doc Schilke, Pat Barnes, Larry Lomison, Jackie Lowell, Jeffrey Hinderliter (Town Planner). Members Absent: Jill Lorom, Karl Olson

1. Meeting Opens at 5:42 PM.

2. Agenda items discussed: Maine Power Reliability Program, Height/Definitions Amendments, Sex Offender Ordinance, Road Signs/House and Business Numbering

3. Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP). Jeffrey introduces Matt Manahan, representing Peirce Atwood and Central Maine Power. Matt has a power point presentation for the Maine Power Reliability Program. Jeffrey explains the presentation is associated with the height and definition amendments and he thought the ORC would get a better idea as to why CMP is seeking height and definition amendments. Some of the presentation highlights:

- Describes bulk power transmission in Maine.
- Described where primary problems are- large population areas where consumption is the greatest.
- The MPRP looks into what CMP needs to do to handle energy by 2017.
- A needs assessment was developed based on case studies (e.g., loss of a 345 kv line).
- Look at transmission alternatives- use existing transmission corridors, non-transmission options, etc.
- Cost is 1.5 billion.
- MPRP schedule- currently have PUC filing, DEP filing later this year, obtain permits from over 80 municipalities over the next few years.
- Work in Wiscasset includes separation of double circuit towers, construction of new towers, clearing vegetation.
- There will be no expansion of the right-of-way.

4. Height/Definitions Ordinance Amendments. Jeffrey explains proposed amendments. Because of the current height requirement, CMP could not construct new towers because they would exceed this height. Jeffrey explains the difference between both amendments. The use is permissible as an Essential Service. Version 1 includes a definition for Transmission Tower and Transmission Tower is part of the Essential Services definition and only allows a height increase for Transmission Towers. Version 2 does not adjust the definitions but allows a height increase for Essential Services that transmit or distribute electrical power. The primary attempt was to limit the height increase to only transmission towers. ORC discuss what the height should be. The proposed towers will be approximately 80 feet but maybe we should go up to 130 feet

because if one of the existing 125 foot towers need to be replaced we would not have to go through the ordinance amendment process. Matt indicated the engineers would prefer a height above 130 feet. Maybe we should not state a specific number and instead state that height shall not exceed existing tower height. Also, the amendments should include a specific date. Cutting vegetation was discussed and there was some concern about this. ORC discuss which version they prefer and were split.

Recommendation: Adjust language and poll the ORC for a recommended version at the next meeting.

5. July 28, 2008 meeting notes approved.

6. Sex Offender Ordinance. Jeffrey indicates that at a Selectmen's meeting, some people brought up that we should consider the Sex Offender Ordinance again. It was thought that the state did not enact a sex offender law. So, the Selectmen requested the ORC consider the Sex Offender Ordinance again. Jeffrey introduced the last draft of the Wiscasset Sex Offender Ordinance and also had a copy of the sex offender law enacted by the state during 2007. Maybe the people and Selectmen did not know of the enacted state law. Jeffrey explains the differences between the local ordinance and state law. The local ordinance is more restrictive than the state in ways such as it restricts residency and contact vs. state is just contact. ORC wonders if the Selectmen are aware of the state law. ORC believe that Jeffrey should return to the Selectmen and inform them that a state law exists and if they believe this law provides enough protection.

Recommendation: Return to the Selectmen and request that they determine if the existing state law offers enough protection or should we continue with the local ordinance.

7. Home/Business Numbers, Road Signs. Jeffrey wanted to update the ORC concerning road signs and home/business numbering. As the ORC may recall, there were several people who requested that some driveways are more like roads because they access more than one home. Also, there are homes and businesses that do not have address numbers up. This makes public safety job more difficult when attempting to find properties. It was thought that when E-911 addresses are given out people are required to put up road signs and address numbers. Jeffrey spoke with the E-911 addressing officer and researched some E-911 material and he could not find anything that requires people to place road signs and address numbers up. Jeffrey said he could prepare some road sign and address standards. Some comments included who would pay for the signs and a standard sign and number plaque should be used.

Recommendation: Develop road sign and address standards.

8. Other Business.

9. Adjourn: 6:55 pm.