

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN
 PLANNING COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING – October 6, 2010

Commission Members Present

MEMBER	X = HERE	MEMBER	X = HERE
Rebecca Audet		Nicholas Michael	X
James Coombs		Bonnie Rosati, Clerk	X
Kevin Durkee	X	George Stannard, Chair	X
Dave Eighmey, Vice Chair	X		

Others Present: Tom Emero – Beaver Wood Energy, LLC; Bill Bousquet – Beaver Wood Energy, LLC; Hans Huessy-Kenlan, Schwiebert, Facey & Goss (attorney for Beaver Wood Energy, LLC).

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm by George Stannard – Chair

NEW BUSINESS

Beaver Wood Energy, LLC – Biomass and wood pellet Facility

Tom Emero of Beaver Wood presented a PowerPoint slide show for the Commission. This is the first contact the Planning Commission has had with Beaver Wood. The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Beaver Wood LLC web site.

The proposal is two projects combined into one – a 29 megawatt wood fired power generation plant and a 110,000 ton per year wood pellet manufacturing facility co-located and are intertwined.

Construction period is expected to be about 26 months total.

A rail spur will be constructed. There have been no discussions with the railroad. Pellets can be shipped by rail if they choose to.

Ash generated can be used as a lime substitute on farm fields.

There are three towers. One for raw water storage, one (brown) is a cooling tower, and one is for #2 fuel oil.

Power lines will go south onto Swamp Road and cross into Poultney. They will need 13 property easements for the lines.

No screening is proposed.

Some people in Fair Haven may qualify for some of the proposed on site jobs.

A 6 mile pipeline plus at least 2 pumps will be constructed to bring water from Lake Champlain to the site for cooling. Any heated water left over will run underground into the Castleton River.

A well for potable water is proposed to be drilled through the bedrock on the site. Originally they were looking for 120 gallons per minute but have reduced that to 65 gallons per minute.

Beaver Wood is looking for a statement from the Planning Commission supporting the project.

Questions arose regarding east bound traffic. Beaver Wood will be asking the town to use their BLA (break limited access) permit for west bound traffic.

The proposal is to have east bound traffic leave the facility heading west and turn around at the Welcome Center or a spot across Prospect Street from the Welcome Center or just over the New York line at a rail yard.

The facility will have full fire protection on the site.

Pellets will be stored on site for 9 days before being shipped.

Daily truck trips (one way) would be 48 chip trucks, 34 log trucks, 1 ash truck, 14 pellet trucks.

Beaver Wood does not want the pellet plant to be separated from the biomass plant because it would require review under ACT 250 and would require local review and permitting. Under ACT 248 do not have to look at prime Ag soils or wetlands on the site.

Height of stacks – The boiler stack would be 100 feet high, the silo 90- 100 feet and the stack about 180 feet.

Some blasting may be required for the discharge pipes to the river.

Most of the field for the site is fill which will need to be removed for construction. The fill removed will be re-spread on the site.

Most of the wood for the operation will come from the east and north with some coming from m New York. Most will be from within a 30 mile radius.

The proposed site is 70 acres in size.

The public service board will hold a public hearing after the 248 application is filed.

No information was available regarding noise, emissions, traffic, economic impact etc.

Four out of five Commissioners present support this proposed facility without further information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Kevin Durkee moved the Commission to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting. Dave Eighmey seconded. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

REVIEW OF MAIL

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present

Bonnie Rosati moved the Commission to adjourn. Dave Eighmey seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

9:23 pm - Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Rosati