

Falmouth Wind Turbine Mitigation Developing a Long-term Plan

Presentation of Draft Recommendations

April 12, 2012



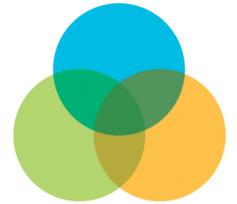
Consensus Building Institute

Tonight's Meeting Goal



- Refining CBI's recommendations for a process to inform the long-term plan for Falmouth's Wind I and Wind II
 - Reviewing assessment process
 - Sharing initial recommendations
 - Answering questions
 - Hearing suggestions and input
 - Exploring details

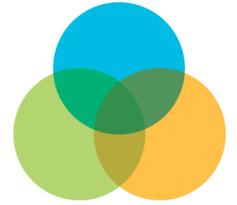
How to Share Concerns about FY13



- The Board of Selectmen have requested that all comments people wish to share about the short-term (now-July 1) and medium-term (FY13) operational plan be sent to them in writing to:

townmanager@falmouthmass.us

Ground Rules for Tonight



PLEASE...

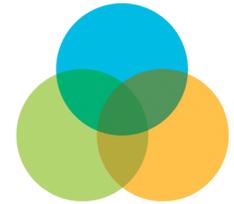
- Share the Floor – Be Concise
- Be Polite – No Personal Attacks
- Speak One at a Time – Use the Mic
- Stay on Topic – No Other Subjects
- Be Interactive – No Speeches
- Falmouth Wind Turbine Stakeholders Only

About CBI



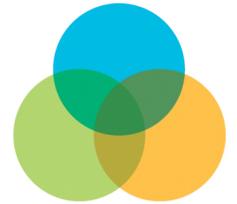
- The Consensus Building Institute is a not-for-profit [501 c(3)] organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. CBI provides facilitation and mediation services to help public, private, and non-governmental organizations nationally and internationally reach agreement on complex public policy matters.
- CBI works as a neutral party equally accountable to all stakeholders. We adhere to the Ethical Standards of the Association for Conflict Resolution.
- CBI has significant experience working on land use disputes of all kinds, including contexts where existing infrastructure is causing health, safety, environmental, and/or economic concerns. We have also developed and delivered workshops specifically around facilitating wind energy.

Overview of Process to Date



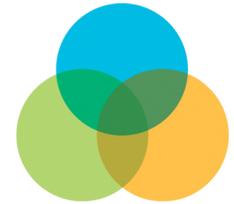
- The Town of Falmouth wants to explore the potential for a collaborative process to seek a plan for the future of the town owned turbines and the impacts of those decisions on the town's budget.
- The Consensus Building Institute was retained (hired by the Town, paid by MassCEC) to assist in soliciting perspectives, exploring the potential for and design of a stakeholder process, and possibly facilitating that process.
- CBI conducted confidential interviews, focus groups, and email exchanges with 52 stakeholders to understand their thoughts and concerns about the future of Wind I and Wind II, in order to explore potential for and guide the design of any stakeholder process.

Goal of Report



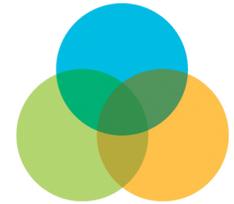
- To provide an overall, impartial view of the general situation in order to develop recommendations on how to best proceed with a process that can engage stakeholders in developing an acceptable future for the Town of Falmouth with regard to Wind I and Wind II.

Assessment Methodology



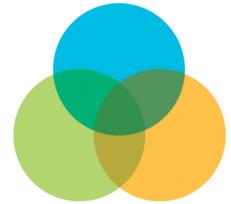
- Confidential interviews with 52 individuals including:
 - abutters, elected and appointed officials of the town, town employees, town meeting members, wind turbine supporters, other interested residents, MassCEC, and technical experts in wind turbines and sound mitigation
- Asked about:
 - connection with and views about the turbines;
 - opinions about the accuracy of the analysis, and the desirability of the mitigation alternatives identified in the Weston and Sampson report, and suggestions regarding other options or analysis that should be considered;
 - perceptions of the value of a collaborative process to bring together representatives of a range of views to seek a consensus on resolutions to the current conflict, and
 - their thoughts about how to ensure any such process is fair, inclusive, and effective

Key Findings



- No inclusive history of “how we got here.”
- Different perceptions of “the problem” to be solved
- Insufficient / ineffective communication among stakeholders
- Deep mistrust, frustration, anxiety, skepticism
- Disagreement on viability and desirability of options outlined in W&S Report and additional options suggested by interviewees
- Disagreement or gaps in information about:
 - Measurements of noise levels across sound spectrum (high-frequency, low-frequency, infra-sound), and amplitude modulation, experienced by all abutters in the full range of wind and background noise conditions
 - Health impacts
 - Viability, costs, benefits, and methods for implementation of the most desirable mitigation options

Core Interests



- Core interests at stake include:
 - Health, safety and well-being of impacted abutters
 - Property rights and economic impacts on property for abutters
 - Use of renewable energy/reducing use of fossil fuel
 - Fiscal impacts on the town

Any broadly acceptable long-term plan for the turbines will need to respond to some extent to all of these core interests.

Process Recommendations



- The Town of Falmouth Board of Selectmen, with assistance from a neutral facilitator, should convene a collaborative *Falmouth Wind Turbine Option Analysis Committee* with representation from all stakeholders and interests.

Who is a “stakeholder”?



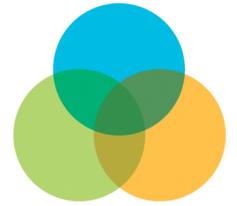
- Any person or an organization that:
 - Has an interest or concern in the conflict, situation, or issue
 - May be needed to implement any outcome or solution
 - May try to undermine the process or outcome if not meaningfully involved
 - Has resources to contribute to the process or solution

Committee Tasks



- *Develop a widely acceptable shared history of events to date*
- Clarify the range of potentially acceptable long-term options
- Identify the questions that would need to be answered about each of those options in order to evaluate their feasibility, costs, benefits, and impacts
- Determine legitimate methods for gaining answers to those questions
- Jointly review and interpret the data that comes back
- Evaluate the options based on the new information

Additional Goals



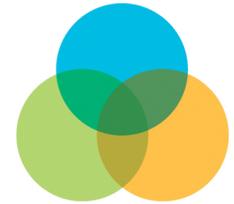
- Improve relationships and effective communication among Town officials, affected families, and other members of the town
- Provide an arena for public information and input and transparent deliberation and evaluation

Collaboration, not Consensus or Compromise



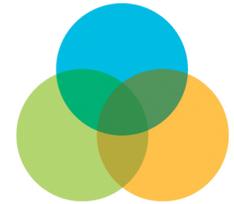
- The goal of the group would NOT be to reach agreement on a long-term decision for the wind turbines, but rather to provide the Board of Selectmen with a clear, comprehensive, and inclusive analysis of the range of options, their costs and benefits, and their impacts, based on stakeholder input and interests.
- Participants in the Committee could disagree about the ultimate criteria that the Board of Selectmen should use to make their decision, but still work together to uncover information that can help inform that decision.
- The views of ALL Committee members will be represented in the final analysis. There will be no voting.

Options Analysis Example 1



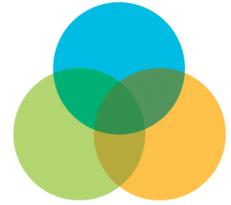
	Costs	Benefits	Opportunities	Barriers / Concerns
Option 1				
Option 2				
Option 3				

Options Analysis Example 2



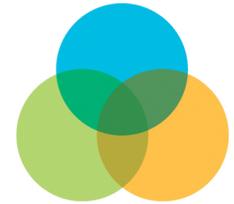
	Interest 1	Interest 2	Interest 3	Interest 4
Option 1				
Option 2				
Option 3				

Filling Scientific Gaps



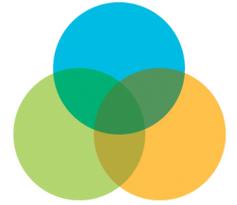
- Data collection should center around information that will be widely perceived as **legitimate** in the eyes of stakeholders, **credible** in technical terms, and (perhaps most importantly) **salient** to the resolution of the issues.
- Answering scientific questions incurs costs, in terms of time and money. There are many things we might wish to know, but we should focus only on research that can inform good decision-making.

Initial Potential Option Elements for Exploration



- Relocation of turbines
- Technological/mechanical improvements to reduce noise/health impacts
- Curtailments to reduce noise/health impacts
- Economic compensation to and/or relocation of impacted neighbors
- External financial support to implement any of these

Representing Core Interests at Stake



The Committee should seek to include participants who can represent the core interests identified:

- Health, safety and well-being of impacted abutters
- Property rights and economic impacts on property for abutters
- Use of renewable energy/reducing use of fossil fuel
- Fiscal impacts on the town

Participants



To do this, we recommend including:

- 3-4 adversely affected neighbors of the turbines (both residential and commercial)
- 1-2 supporters of renewable energy
- 2-3 taxpayers who are not adversely affected by the turbines (*who are primarily concerned with town fiscal well-being*)
- 3-4 Relevant Town Departments
- 1-2 Selectmen as liaisons

Participant Criteria



- Capacity to represent and articulate the diverse range of interests and concerns of the constituencies they represent, seek input from constituents, and keep them informed about the discussions and proceedings of the Committee
- Willingness and interest in attending all meetings and participating actively in discussions
- Willingness to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue with other stakeholder group representatives, and seek creative resolutions of differences that meet the interests of their own and other groups

Selecting Participants



- Stakeholder Group Self-Selection
 - SH Caucus Meeting, with or without facilitator
 - Other internal process
- Open and Transparent Nomination Process through Board of Selectmen
 - Develop nomination form and simplified selection process

GOAL is legitimate representation of all interests

Process Support



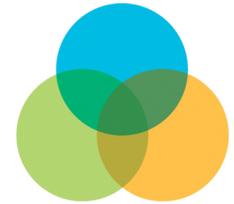
Retain a Neutral Facilitator to:

- draft and refine protocols to ensure clear and effective communication
- help develop refine, and manage the process so that it runs smoothly and effectively
- work with participants to clarify interests and concerns, identify and synthesize points of agreement and disagreement, and elicit and clarify potential options that might “bridge” those differences
- Maintain transparent records of meetings, deliberations, and agreements

Retain Technical Advisors to:

- attend Committee meetings
- prepare and deliver educational presentations on technical issues
- conduct research as directed by the Committee
- respond to questions, concerns, and ideas of the group

Work Plan



Hold 5-6 meetings, three (3) hours in length.

One possible structure:

- *Meeting one:* Establish operating protocols, overview of process goals and work plan, clarify options for analysis, member and public Q&A
- *Meeting two:* Identify questions to answer about the options, explore methodologies for collecting information, public comment
- *Meeting three:* Finalize information-gathering protocols, public comment

BREAK FOR DATA COLLECTION

- *Meeting four:* Mid-point evaluation of information gathering and initial findings, public Q&A and comment

BREAK TO FINALIZE DATA COLLECTION

- *Meeting five:* Review, evaluate, and interpret new information, public comment
- *Meeting six:* Finalize analysis of feasibility, cost, and benefit of options, public comment

Meeting Logistics



- How frequent?
- What days/times?

Transparency and Inclusion



- Publicize Committee meetings broadly and invite all interested citizens:
 - Press releases, local newspapers, announcements in public places
 - Public Access television?
 - Updates at town Selectmen and other relevant town Board meetings
 - Public web posting of all Committee materials
- Provide multiple avenues for stakeholder input
 - Public comment times on Committee meeting agendas
 - Representatives make themselves available to provide updates and receive input from the people they represent
 - Send comments to facilitator