

May 7, 2013

Resolution Concerning Industrial Wind Turbines in Trent Hills, Northumberland County.

Moved by: Councillor Kim MacNeil Seconded by: Councillor Eugene Brahaney

BE IT RESOLVED that notwithstanding Trent Hills Zoning By Law 2010-105 5.1 (P) "Wind Turbines" which outlines setbacks;

AND WHEREAS there is much uncertainty related to the potential health effects, often referred to as "wind-turbine syndrome", currently being debated and studied throughout the world;

AND WHEREAS physical safety hazards such as "ice throws" from huge wind turbine blades and the risk from being on the land under wind turbines are yet to be clearly defined and therefore risk-assessed;

AND WHEREAS the economics versus the risks of industrial wind turbines have not yet been clearly identified or articulated for the taxpayer;

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Trent Hills is not a willing host to wind turbines with rated capacity over 100 kilowatts.

AND THAT we request that all County of Northumberland member municipalities support a similar resolution for their municipality, and forward to the County for consideration of a County wide resolution that the County of Northumberland is not a willing host to wind turbines with a rated capacity above 100 kilowatts;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; MPP Rob Milligan; Municipalities of Northumberland County and the County of Northumberland.

Why this resolution? “Resolution Concerning Industrial Wind Turbines”- Kim MacNeil April 28/13

Growing concerns with respect to Industrial Wind Turbines are evident locally and also internationally. Many of our citizens and taxpayers concerns are centred around the health effects of low frequency noise, physical safety hazards, costs of subsidies, reductions in property values and costs of decommissioning as well as the question of the benefits of a system that doesn't store the power and can't be relied upon to provide power when it is needed.

At a recent County Council Meeting which I attended a presentation by Alliance for the Protection of the Northumberland Hills highlighted that there are no guidelines for the “Infrasound” from Industrial turbines which can reach 100kms away. These are inaudible to humans below 20hz and affects animals. This raises questions of not only human health but the health of farm animals on which many in our community depend.

The Ontario Green Energy Act allows placement of Wind Turbines without the approval from lower tiers of government. The Renewable Energy Facilitation Office of the Ministry of Energy has recently issued a document entitled Renewable Energy Development: A Guide for Municipalities, updated for FIT 2.0. This document indicates *“FIT 2.0” provides municipalities with increased opportunities to be involved in the renewable energy development process.* There is at least some acknowledgement that we have a role.

Via the proposed resolution Councillor Brahaney and I urge our Council and the County Council to indicate up front that we are not a *Willing Host* to Industrial Wind Turbines rated for over 100 kilowatts. By taking this step we will indicate to the Province Of Ontario and potential proponents that there would be significant opposition should our area be selected as a target for such development. This could save a lot of money and heartache. We just need to look a little east of here to Prince Edward County and Amherst Island for a picture of what the future could look like.

The proposed resolution does not speak to the use of small wind turbines for micro-generation.

Just on the 23rd of April an Ontario Superior Court Justice brought down a ruling which adds support to several of the claims opponents have been pointing out for many years.

Quote from Canada News wire –

“After reviewing the evidence of appraiser Ben Lansink, the court states: “(i)n summary, the plaintiffs' evidence shows that they have already suffered harm through a loss in property values and the corresponding interference with the use and enjoyment of their properties.” [Para. 9] “The plaintiffs have filed expert appraisal evidence indicating that their properties are likely presently devalued by between 22 to 50 per cent or more, based upon the Proposal as presented.” [Para. 31] “... *:(I)n this case the court accepts that the*

plaintiffs have suffered, and are currently suffering, losses culminating in diminished property values ..." [Para. 34, emphasis added]

The court also received evidence from Dr. Robert McMurtry, a medical doctor and internationally recognized and published author on the health effects of industrial wind turbines, that in his view: "there is ... a high probability that the proposal will cause one or more of the following adverse effects to the plaintiffs` properties: audible noise, low frequency noise, infrasound, visual impact and/or shadow flicker. There is also a high probability that the proposal will cause one or more of the following adverse health effects at the plaintiffs' properties: sleep disturbance, annoyance, headache, tinnitus, ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring, tachycardia, irritability, problems with concentration and memory, and/or panic episodes."annoyance, headache, tinnitus, ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring, tachycardia, irritability, problems with concentration and memory, and/or panic episodes."

The court also had evidence from Mr. Richard James, an Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE) acoustician, who concluded: "[i]n my professional opinion, the [project] poses a very strong probability almost amounting to a mathematical certainty that the project will ... (e)xceed the MOE 40 dBA thresholds for wind turbine noise ..."

While the court concluded that since the project design etc. may change there is no way of knowing that these effects will in fact occur [see for example Para. 41], "(t)he fact that a major wind company and a court accepted this kind of evidence as being proven on this motion appears to be unprecedented" said John Wiggins, who together with his wife Sylvia commenced the initial lawsuit. "Government and wind proponents around the world have been denying for many years that turbines devalue properties and cause adverse health effects. To have a multi-national wind company and a court agree that these kinds of problems can be taken as proven elsewhere in the context of this motion, and that a court accepts property losses of 22 to 50% or more are in fact already occurring in Ontario right now, appears to be a real victory."