

IN UPCOMING ISSUES:
Sustainability: Can industrial wind reduce the need for coal and foreign oil?

Human Health and Safety: Noise, flicker, & other considerations.

Local Environment: Birds, bats, other animals, and habitat.

Local Revenue & Economy: Is industrial wind a windfall for the towns that host it?

Setbacks: How do we protect Jackson residents?

Public Access: Will the ridges be accessible to hiking, hunting and snowmobiling?

Planning Board goes-on *cont'd from first page*

issue to attend the next Planning Board meeting on October 16.

But when fifteen citizens showed up at the October 16 meeting, they were told the Board must focus on Shoreland Zoning, not industrial wind development. Dennison and Selectmen Ludden organized the citizens into a Wind Power Sub-Committee of the Planning Board.

Meanwhile, the Town Clerk has, in the past four months, sworn in four new members on to the Planning Board at the invitation of the Planning Board Chair. But most of those members have now been removed because they were not "officially" appointed by the Selectmen.

About Us...

Your humble editors are a resolute band of three.

Bill and Kathleen Maseychik came to Jackson in 1969. Bill has served as Jackson First Selectman and on the MSAD3 School Board. Kathleen and Bill have both served on the Jackson Planning Board, with Bill as chairman.

Heather Selin moved to Jackson with her husband, David McDaniel, in September 2008. In 2007 they started an organic farm on East Chase Road.

Among the members removed were those who most vocally expressed their concerns about how quickly the Town seemed to be moving toward industrial wind development.

We hope this was only a coincidence, and does not reflect a desire to remove those asking legitimate questions.

We urge the Planning Board to put the issue of industrial wind power development front and center on its agenda, and to work closely with the Wind Power Sub-Committee in considering the potential impacts of what is probably the most significant development issue Jackson has ever dealt with.

We have in common an abiding interest in open government, community involvement, and a healthy suspicion of big corporations coming into rural towns saying, "we're here to help."

Have a response to what we write? We will consider all thoughtful contributions. Write to us at P.O. Box 254, Brooks, ME 04921, or email heatherselin@mac.com.

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Fair Wind

Your newsletter on industrial wind development in Jackson ME

Welcome!

Welcome to "Fair Wind". Consider this your "official, unofficial" newsletter on industrial wind power development in Jackson, Maine.

We are unofficial because we don't represent any officially constituted group. But we hope to become your "official" source of trustworthy information about wind development in Jackson.

As we talk to friends and neighbors about industrial wind turbines, we are finding there is a lack of knowledge, or misperceptions, about many things.

Our commitment to you, our readers, is to:

- highlight the issues we think matter most to

Jackson residents;

- be fair and base our content on reliable information;
- be fearless in asking the tough questions; and
- entertain you!

We aim to publish every two weeks. But keep in mind that we're volunteers, so we ask for your patience.

In the meantime, don't wait for more information. Check out our favorite Internet sources:

www.wind-watch.org & www.windaction.org

Locally: www.jacksonwindproject.net & <http://sites.google.com/site/jacksonwindproject/Home>

Jackson, Dixmont residents approve moratoriums

On January 6, Jackson residents voted overwhelmingly for a citizen-initiated, six-month moratorium on the issuing of permits for development of industrial wind turbines (86 in favor; 34 against).

On February 4, Dixmont residents voted in a six-month moratorium by a margin of 111 – 20.

In our view, the moratoriums are very wise. They buy us some time to figure out the potential impact of wind development on health, safety, local

environment, and the local economy.

Six months isn't much time to consider the issues involved, so we need to use it wisely.

We urge you to inform yourself about the issues, ask intelligent questions of our town Selectmen, and share information with your neighbors. You can also volunteer on the Wind Power Sub-committee of the Jackson Planning Board.

Find out more at the websites listed above.

Planning Board goes-on

What in the world is going on with the Jackson Planning Board? You may not ask yourself this question daily, or even once a decade.

But you might want to start asking. The role of the Planning Board is very important in this issue.

First, the primary duty of the Board is to anticipate major developmental and planning issues and to recommend development policies (per the Jackson Planning Board Ordinance). The Board can propose new ordinances or changes to existing ordinances.

Second, the Board has the authority to issue permits for industrial wind development if and when the time comes.

Yet our sources tell us that the Planning Board has been instructed to NOT address the wind

development issue. This seems particularly curious, given that the Town's own lawyer, William Kelly, advised on January 6 that he thought the current Land Use Ordinance to be ambiguous.

We recognize the challenges facing a volunteer Planning Board. And we salute its work. But to ignore a looming, major industrial development issue makes no sense to us.

In fact, after the public information meeting on industrial wind on October 7, Planning Board Chair Brenda Dennison urged citizens interested in the

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What are we talking about, anyway?

Let's start with the facts. Or at least what we believe to be the facts, based on the incomplete information we have.

How many wind towers are planned?

From what interested wind companies have told us, and from looking at topo maps, about 30 wind towers are planned. About 10 would be in Jackson proper, with the remainder in Thomdike and Dixmont.

Where would they be located?

Among the hills for which the wind companies have signed leases, or are trying to sign leases, are: Dixmont Mountain/Mount Harris, the Cookson property, Common Hill (Shue, Anthony/Greeley, and the Town Woodlot), Ricker Hill, Wren Hill, and Files Hill.

How big are the towers?

The height from the base to the blade tip of the planned GE 1.5-megawatt turbines is about **380 feet**: 262 feet for the tower, and an additional 116 feet to the blade tip. This is almost as tall as the Penobscot Narrows Observatory, and nearly twice as high as the tallest radio tower on the ridge.

The towers are anchored in concrete and steel rebar platforms. These can be 30 to 50 feet across and anywhere from 6 to 30 feet deep. Shafts are sometimes driven down farther to help anchor them. Mountaintops may be blasted to accommodate them (see picture from Mars Hill construction, right).



Construction of tower platform at Mars Hill

What other development and infrastructure might be involved?

Well, to start with, roads for construction and maintenance. This will include permanent maintenance roads between the wind towers. You might think about the equivalent of Route 7 being built along the Dixmont-Jackson-Thomdike ridge top.

Clearing will be required for the platforms and towers. One estimate of clearing required per 1.5mW turbine on a ridge is 32 acres. So, 30 wind towers x 32 = 960 acres.

Electric transmission lines will be needed. One or more substations will also be needed. Will there be more transmission lines than we currently have? Will they be bigger than existing ones? Where will they be located?

We don't know, but we do think these are important questions that should be answered long before any towers go up.

Is this a "done deal"?

No. Wind companies have signed leases with landowners, but this does not give them the authority to begin construction.

Without an ordinance to address industrial wind turbines, we could be leaving the limits to development up to the landowners and the wind companies.

However, Jackson, as a town, can set specific restrictions on wind development: limits of the number and height of turbines, minimum distances from homes and abutting property, noise level restrictions, etc. These restrictions could include not permitting industrial wind turbines at all.

It's up to us to decide, folks: Home rule! (Or is it? See next issue for LD199, which wants to take away the right of Towns to decide where to site industrial wind turbines.)

"Wind power stations are no parks. They are industrial and commercial installations."

- Excerpt from letter from ranchers in Lone Prairie, BC, concerned about Industrial Wind Power



Simulation of part of the proposed Jackson Wind Project from about a mile south of the ridge (on Route 7).