

***TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, LONG ISLAND, N.Y.***

MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2017

**Special session of Harbor Management Committee
East Hampton Town Trustees**

**Proposed South Fork Wind Farm
Harbor Management Meeting II
Minutes of the meeting**

Rick Drew - Moderator

Co-Chairperson Harbor Management Committee
East Hampton Town Trustee Deputy Clerk

Jennifer Garvey

John O'Keefe

Beth Casoni

Julia Prince

Deep Water Wind Farm

Also Present:

Arlene Tesar - Trustee Secretary

Linda James – EH Energy Sustainability Committee

Gordian Raacke - Renewable Energy Long Island

Rona Klopman - Interested party

Captain Paul Forsberg - The Viking Fishing Fleet

Kevin McAllister - Defend H20

James Carforo - Harbor Management Committee member

John Aldred - Interested Party

Bonnie Brady – Long Island Commercial Fisherman's Association

Brad Loewen - EH Town Fisheries Committee

Kevin James - Defend H20

Stephen Drew - NYSERDA study

Susan McGraw Keber - Interested Party

Mike McDonald – Interested party

Francesca Rheannon - East Hampton Sustainability

Francis Bock – EH Town Trustee Clerk

Bill Taylor – EH Town Trustee Deputy Clerk

Jim Grimes – EH Town Trustee, Harbor Management Committee co-chair

Rick Drew:

Welcome everyone. My name is Rick Drew. I am one of the East Hampton Town Trustees and the co-chairperson of the Harbor Management Committee I would like to welcome you all. This is the Town Trustees 3rd meeting with the representatives of Deep Water Wind Farm. Last week we had an opportunity to meet with members of the fisheries community and members of the sustainable energy community for an information session with representatives of the South Fork Wind Farm. We mainly discussed the process and how this site was selected. How 256 square miles of bottomland was carved out to serve as a wind energy area off Rhode Island and Massachusetts and how economics have directed that energy towards eastern New York, the South Fork and the tristate area. The point of this meeting is to focus more on the environment and what are the potential impacts of this project on our bottomland and on our fisheries. We have an amazing sustainable food supply off the coast of Long Island. I think we all want to look at how we can have clean sustainable energy without harming the health of our fisheries. When Mr. Plummer was here last week he said that he wants to be our hometown energy provider and a long term member of our community. Now, the time for public comment, is upon us. The application process will begin in the first quarter of 2018, so this is the time for anyone with any questions, comments or concerns to reach out and be heard.

Rick Drew:

We would like to hear from our commercial fisheries community. Captain Forsberg would you mind starting us off with any questions that you may have?

Captain Paul Forsberg:

How deep do you intend to bury the cables?

John O'Keefe:

Four to six feet wherever possible. That is how it was done off Block Island. We are still doing our surveys on the routes to East Hampton.

Captain Paul Forsberg:

In the area's that it isn't possible what do you plan to do?

John O'Keefe:

Off Block Island we put concrete mattresses over them.

Captain Paul Forsberg:

Do they shift? Do boats get snagged on them? Is there a map identifying their locations?

John O'Keefe:

There is a map showing the locations. Draggers and trawlers don't seem to get snagged on them. We are currently surveying the Block Island site so we will know if they have shifted.

Captain Paul Forsberg:

What about this Big Orange circle outlining all of Cox's Ledge? It makes me very uncomfortable. It would have been hard for you to pick a worse spot for our fisheries. When will you have more specific locations?

John O'Keefe:

I don't know yet.

James Grimes:

Will there be flexibility in determining the exact locations? I am getting the feeling that we aren't going to be kept in the loop and we will just hear one day that this is where we are putting the turbines and it will be too late for us to have input in the micro siting of the turbines.

Captain Paul Forsberg:

We really want to see more than a big orange circle outlining all of Cox's ledge. In terms of the micro siting of these towers the difference of 500 feet in the placement of the base can make all the difference of its effect on the fisheries. When are you going to come to us with a more specific location?

Bill Taylor:

There is a lot of local knowledge and it would benefit you if you would get it early on. Meet with these people and take what information they have to offer you.

Bonnie Brady:

I am also very concerned that the new head of the NYSPSC, John Rhodes, is not worried about the destroying of the bottomland to install the bases of the wind turbines. He feels that there will be inconsequential effects from things like pile driving.

I know that two of the gill netters in Rhode Island lost 8 months of fishing due to pile driving and jet plowing during the installation of the bases of the Block Island Turbines. They went to DWWF and Deepwater did nothing to help them. They are the fisherman whose photos showed the fish with their intestines blown out.

Captain Paul Forsberg:

It hasn't all been bad news. There is great fishing off the west tower in Block Island now. There are fish where there never were fish before. We started catching them right after construction.

Rick Drew:

I would like to introduce the line of questioning regarding the impact of this project on the environment and the habitat. It is very important to us that we don't disturb, healthy, productive bottomland and instead site these towers in unproductive areas. Brad Loewen, as a member of the EH Town Fisheries Committee, I would like you to weigh in with your questions and concerns.

Brad Loewen:

Have studies been done on the effect the cables will have on the microbial life in the water?

Deep Water:

No.

Brad Loewen:

I want to say I support everything that Bonnie Brady has said here tonight and I have little to add to it. I am concerned about the lack of knowledge or finished research on the effect of the Electromagnetism emanating from these underwater cables. We really don't know if potential EMF emissions will cause harm to living microorganisms and how this will work its way up the food chain. Maine turned down a similar scenario out of fear of damage to the Maine lobster industry. After all what would Maine be without Maine Lobsters? We came to this meeting looking for answers and we aren't getting anything here from you tonight. Not the location of a more specific site for the Windfarm or answers about the potential harm to our fisheries. We want to hear the scientific data behind what you are proposing to do.

If you bring the cables through Napeague to the Fresh Pond area what will happen if in the middle of the fishing or shell fishing season you need to dig up the cables for emergency repairs? The ecosystem off the proposed site at Fresh Pond is significantly different than the waters around Block Island. Please do your research before routing the cable through Napeague Bay.

Also remember that just because Captain Forsberg's fishery is improving after the building of the wind turbines, that doesn't mean that all fisheries are doing better. We have Trawlers, Gill netters, Lobstermen, Shellfishery, Charter, Commercial and Recreational fisheries.

There are 3 basic questions that we need answered.

1) How is this project going to effect the fish and the living organisms in the bay? Do you plan to put an exclusion zone around the cable?

2) How is this project going to effect the fisherman?

3) How will this project effect the waterways and beaches controlled by the Trustees as that will impact the lives of the fisherman and the residents of The Town of East Hampton.

Jennifer Garvey:

We are very lucky to have an up and running Wind Farm nearby in Block Island. We are happy to share the finished science and hard data that we have with you. We are currently doing a lot more research on Block Island post construction. We do test for electromagnetic emissions and do many studies on the health of the various fisheries. We are also re-surveying the places that we had to use concrete mattresses to make sure they haven't shifted. We are willing to share our finished studies from Block Island, past, present and future with the public. We recognize that the area in Napeague is significantly different from the area around Block Island.

We are here because we want your input and feedback. Would you be willing to meet with us and help us understand your area? Based on your initial feedback we have been strongly considering re-routing the cable to the Ocean side to protect the habitat and fisheries in the bay area.

Brad Loewen:

Yes, I would be willing to meet with you to further discuss the Baymen's concerns.

Rick Drew:

I am also very concerned. It seems that you plan to begin the scientific testing on this project after applying for a construction permit. That makes no sense to me. We invited you here to bring us the science and information.

John O'Keefe:

We are very concerned about the science and the fisheries. I am an operations man, not a scientist, engineer or an employee charged with handling the permit process. I assure you we can get those people down here and have you meet with them and get answers.

Julia Prince:

Deep Water Wind is committed to doing community outreach to the local fisheries. It is very important that we gather data from the community and the fisherman. We are here to take your input, questions and concerns back to Deep Water wind farm and try to come up with the best project plan possible within the constraints of the location of the site and the results of the surveying and core samples.

Rick Drew:

We are going to shift gears now. I would like to hear from the sustainable energy community. Linda James from Renewable Energy Long Island would you be kind enough to discuss your perspective with the committee?

Linda James:

Thank you Rick Drew and thank you Captain Forsberg for calling them Windmills. In East Hampton we have an over 300 year history of using Windmills for wind power. When I first saw these renderings for power generated by Windmills, I was taken in by the historical significance of harnessing the wind to help our communities.

I feel we have a good opportunity here to provide a model in this country of how to have clean, energy producing Windmills offshore for everyone including the fisherman. When I think about the future and the world I want to leave for my grandchildren the idea of producing clean energy through offshore windfarms is the best option I have heard.

We all hear and acknowledge the importance of the concerns and fears of our local fisherman. We would like to work with them protecting sensitive bottomlands and placing the cables and the Windmills in the area that will cause the least harm to our thriving fisheries and the ecosystem of the waters and bottomlands. We also don't want to lose an opportunity to provide a cleaner environment for generations to come.

Gordian Raacke:

East Hampton town is having significant difficulty meeting the electric demands of its community. At the moment we have to bring in generators on large trucks in order to meet our summer demand. This Wind Farm project will do a lot to alleviate that pressure on our town. Together with conservation, solar powered homes and this wind power we have a chance at clean, sustainable energy in our town.