

Chairperson Larry Ruth called the Planning Board Worksession to order at 7:34 P.M. Members present were Elaine Leasure, Deborah Amsler, Karel Ambroz, Larry Ruth, and Gene Bavis. Also present was Phil Williamson, Code Enforcement Officer and Norm Druschel, Building Inspector.

Gene Bavis made a motion, seconded by Deb Amsler to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 meeting as presented.

Roll Vote:	Larry Ruth	Aye
	Deborah Amsler	Aye
	Karel Ambroz	Aye
	Elaine Leasure	Aye
	Gene Bavis	Aye

Motion carried.

1. Discussion of Matthew Lignelli, 419 Everwild Lane about the possibility of installing a small wind turbine on the roof of his residence. Property is zoned R.

Matthew Lignelli was present to discuss his plans to install a wind turbine on the roof of his house. A rough sketch was provided to the Planning Board members. Mr. Lignelli initially saw the concept on the Discovery Channel and was intrigued by the idea of generating power from the location it is being used in. With the concern about the economy and dependence on foreign oil and energy conservation, he decided to research the matter further. He decided to go forward with the project and is in the process of building the wind turbine. Halfway through the project he realized that he should probably approach the Board to make sure it is something that the Town will let him use.

Mr. Lignelli explained how the wind turbine works. The wind turbine blows in very moderate winds, as low as 5 mph. The average wind speed in the Rochester area for the last 53 years is 9.7 mph. This design, called a vertical axis wind turbine, is relatively small and does not take up much space. Mr. Lignelli explained that unlike the windmills on wind farms that are known to be dangerous, this wind turbine does not over-rotate, throw ice or snow and is not harmful to wildlife. The design does not have propeller blades, is made of plastic and metal, stands 10 feet tall and is 6 feet around, and spins vertically on an axis.

The Board asked the following questions:

- How much energy does the wind turbine generate?**
It depends on the generator I put on it. I plan to use a 3,000-watt generator. It is not a huge amount of electricity, enough to power my house for a year. Peak usage is 23,000 kilowatts/hours. Average kilowatt/hrs is 16,000 kilowatt/hrs. Federal Law required that excess power be sold back to RG & E. I have spoken to RG & E and they have a program in place and have sent me the appropriate applications. They require specialized electronic equipment that will not harm their equipment and have provided me with a list of approved equipment. I have been trained as an electrician and will install the wind turbine myself.
- How exactly will it be installed?**
It will be installed on the back part of my roof, behind the front two peaks. Visually you would be able to see it as you approached the house from both directions, but you would probably lose vision of it as you drive directly in front of the house. There will be a v-bracket and pipe on the roof to hold the wind turbine. The generator itself will be bolted to the side of the frame. The generator is relatively small, about the size of a car alternator. From there it goes into disconnect switch down the side of the house for RG & E. RG & E will provide me with a special bi-directional meter to monitor energy usage.
- How will it look?**
It actually looks kind of like a giant lawn structure when it spins. It is extremely quiet (silent) and does not make the "whoosh" sound of the larger windmills.

- **This doesn't appear to have any flat surfaces.**
Only a small vertical wing that helps it rotate.
- **Any concern about lightning strikes?**
I plan to fasten to a grounding rod.
- **Just to be curious, what is the payback period?**
Probably about three years.
- **Do you have neighbors nearby and have you spoken to them?**
We do have neighbors; we live in a development. I haven't spoken to them yet. I wanted to talk to the Planning Board first and make sure everything is legal before approaching my neighbors.

Phil Williamson read from the Town Code, Section §180-12(B)(3) District: Single-Family Residential as follows:

"Satellite receiver antennas (use and regulation of such antennas which is not superseded by federal laws, rules and regulations) and windmills, provided that, if they are mounted on the ground, their overall height does not exceed their distance from the property line and said windmill is not in excess of 35 feet in height, and further provided that if said antenna is mounted on a rooftop, its height shall not exceed a height where guide wires or mechanical bracing device are required. The Planning Board, upon granting such special use permit, shall as a condition, require the removal of the windmill if same is not operated or utilized for a continuous period of 60 days."

Phil Williamson commented that that this is the only mention of windmills in our Town Code.

Phil Williamson stated that a Special Use Permit requires a public hearing. There will be a sign posted in the applicant's front yard advertising the public hearing.

Deb Amsler mentioned to the applicant that there may be grants available for alternative energy. Karel Ambroz suggested he look at the NYS website: NYSERTA.

Chairman Ruth suggested that during the public hearing, it would be helpful to provide some pictures of what the wind turbine will look like installed.

Gene Bavis commented that the one of the issues the Board must look at is harmony with the neighborhood. Further, the Board must base their decision on what is in the Town Code.

Chairman Ruth stated that based on what Mr. Lignelli presented, he did not have any problems with the concept, but it can be anticipated that the public may ask many of the same questions posed by the Board at the public hearing. The other members of the Board concurred that they did not have a problem with the concept.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Gail Rutkowski, Clerk