

Rant on Higgins Mountain Wind Farm

By Carol Hyslop

Today I attended an open house put on by the companies proposing the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm in Wentworth, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.

Only marginally knowledgeable about wind turbines my questions were based on other concerns: who were the owners of the participating companies? how will the produced electricity be used and where? who will benefit from the project? will there be a thorough environmental assessment? what have the involved businesses done to liaise with the community? to what do those businesses feel their responsibility is in promoting this project?

Having lived in the community of Wentworth for over 70 years, I have seen it threatened again and again with project proposals by government and big business....some that succeeded and some that did not. The long term effects of these proposals on the land or its residents were never seriously considered. Concerned citizens have spent lifetimes trying to protect their home community from projects which could, in fact, destroy it. And here we go again.

Wind power to produce electricity cleanly seems an attractive way to combat climate

change, so that is mostly a good thing. Wind turbines near homes have had uncomfortable effects on people, that is a bad thing. The structure of a wind turbine can be overpowering and very unsightly in some locations, that is something to be considered. This is literally all I know about wind power.

The companies proposing to create it are, I was told, all Canadian. That's good, and they don't seem to be large conglomerates or connected to such. But - - they will sell to Nova Scotia Power which is Emera, a very large corporation "with more than \$31 billion in assets and serving 2.5 million customers in Canada, the US and the Caribbean".

(emera.com/about-us) It would seem that these smaller Canadian companies will try to do what Emera could not accomplish because of its reputation and with the same result - Emera gets to do with the power whatever it wishes. What it wishes, I suspect, is to sell the power outside of NS to reap financial benefits for its owners and shareholders. Of course, I could be wrong, but I don't think so.

As for Wentworth, it, like so many rural communities, is struggling to exist as it deals with the loss of businesses, its school, its churches and its

sense of togetherness. This is exacerbated by land and residences being bought by seasonal users who visit rarely. The survival of our community at present hinges on its attractiveness to 'out door' people - those who hike, bike and ski, who enjoy scenic vistas and bits of quiet. A wind farm on Higgins Mountain would do little to promote this.

Urban dwellers may find this hard to understand but many 'full-time' rural people live in the areas they do because they feel a deep connection with the land. They find peace and renewal when walking in the woods, sitting by the river, watching birds and animals or working in a garden. They value and respect nature and are aware the earth sustains us all. For them rural living is a necessity.

What I see in the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm plan is a project that will cause a degrading of the quality of life to residents of Wentworth, some destruction of animal, plant and insect life to add to that caused by relentless clearcutting and the death of a community hope for a means of survival.

Carol Hyslop has lived in Wentworth for 70 years.

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COVID-19 Screening Program

The Nova Scotia Workplace COVID-19 Screening Program has reopened. This testing program serves as an important tool by allowing asymptomatic employees to "know their status" when it comes to COVID-19 in their places of work.

The Workplace Screening Program is available free of charge. There is a link at the end of the survey which allows you to book an information session. Book an information session to learn all about the program and the next steps.

Inside Ourselves (True feelings)

*Tune into the channels within
The empty feeling
The empty feeling
The one we know
The lust of love
Can't find on our own
Fill me now
Until sundown
Be my peace
My serenity
This empty feeling
When will it go
Will anyone find me
God is my peace of mind!*

God bless and thank-you, Kendra M. Bowie

Committee of the Whole Met October 20TH

By Amanda-Leigh MacLeod

Committee of the Whole (COW) met via zoom on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement and a moment of silence for the young life lost in Southampton this week.

Council reviewed a draft form of a policy that would enable the creation of a youth council. The youth council is planned to be an advisory body to municipal council on matters which impact youth.

A second draft form of a policy was reviewed by council, the Rodent and Raccoon Control Policy. This policy was drafted as the volume of complaints regarding rodents has increased and a co-ordinated approach to rodent management will protect public health and safety while preserving ecological sustainability.

In an on-going effort to remove obsolete or redundant bylaws, 22 bylaws from the former Town of Springhill were brought to council for repeal. First reading for the repeal of former Town of Springhill bylaws will be held



at the October 27, 2021 council meeting.

Currently, the municipality's land use bylaw does not include provisions for decommissioning of wind turbines at the end of their life cycle. Council has requested staff to investigate possible provisions for decommissioning or abandonment of wind turbines, including enforcement opportunities and zoning set-backs.

Cumberland Public Libraries (CPL) has requested input from council regarding a change to the board member appointment. CPL desires to have an additional board member appointed with an eye for inclusion, equity and diversity to strengthen the CPL board's connection to the community at large.

Council agreed to the concept of an additional board member for the purpose of diversity and inclusion, and has requested a formal letter of agreement between CPL, the three funding municipalities and the Governor in

Council.

Mayor Scott provided an update to council on the ongoing meetings held with Nova Scotia Health Authority staff, local MLAs and MP, and community interest groups regarding healthcare recruitment in the region.

Reports were provided from directors regarding Finance, Community Development, Engineering and Operations, Human Resources and Community Facilities, and the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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