

Town of Osborn's Response to the Appeal

Osborn Select Board
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August 28, 2013

Cindy Bertocci
Board of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Re: Hancock Wind Appeal to BEP

Mr. Lord has accused the Osborn Select Board and Roger Waterman of deceptively, illegally, unethically and unscrupulously holding private meetings with First Wind representative David Fowler with the intent of withholding information from the DEP to protect our "\$4K per turbine" and to arrange the exchange of, or the promise of, the exchange of money. As none of us has the means to hire legal defense against these slanderous, libelous, malicious and fictitious charges we hope this letter will suffice.

If memory serves, David Fowler has been to Osborn four times for the Hancock Wind Project in late 2012. The first time to explain the standard Community Benefit Agreement to the Select Board, the second when the Board met to call for a Special Town Meeting to approve the Agreement after it had reviewed by our town attorney. The third time was at the Special Town Meeting when the Benefit was approved and the last time when our Community Building was used by David Fowler and his staff to hold an advertised informational meeting on Hancock Wind for interested citizens of the area towns.

Neither the Osborn Board nor I have met privately with David Fowler concerning Weaver Wind. Nor have we conspired to withhold information concerning Weaver Wind from the DEP and the State. So the statement that a Board member gave Mr. Lord "some very good information and details" regarding this is not true.

We first knew of Weaver Wind in February 2013 when a reporter from the Bangor Daily News called me inquiring if we were aware that land in Osborn had been leased on October 22, 2012 for another Wind Project. His story on this ran in the Bangor Daily on February 15, 2013. I received an Email from Mr. Lord on Feb 15, 2013 reacting to the Bangor Daily story.

I went on line to the Hancock County Registry of Deeds website on February 22, 2013 and found that Weaver Wind had leased land from BBC Land LLC and Ursa Major LLC, two of our largest landholders. Shortly thereafter, an interested citizen sent us a 66-page copy of the actual Wind Energy Agreement between Weaver Wind LLC and BBC Land and Ursa Major. This is the same Agreement that is also available to anyone at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds. Having a copy of the Agreement available has been very helpful answering the many questions generated by the news stories. Rather public proceedings for a project supposedly kept "in my desk."

The Weaver Wind material is not "in my desk." Osborn is a small town; I do not have a desk. I share a small table just inside the entrance door of our small Town office. The Weaver Wind material is in a three-ring binder prominently marked and prominently displayed on that small table and has been reviewed by anyone interested.

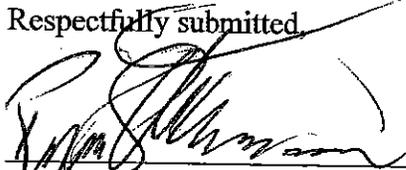
The dialogue between Mr. Lord and myself when I supposedly laughed and said: "hell no we want our \$4k per turbine etc" never took place. There was never any reason for it, because in our capacities as Selectmen of the Town of Osborn we were never involved in the planning, approval, disapproval, permitting or anything else with Weaver Wind other than duties as Selectmen for one of the proximate towns. Mr. Lord should know that Selectmen of one small town have limited influence on a multi-million dollar project that involves DEP, LUPC, the U.S Corps of Engineers and several billion-dollar companies.

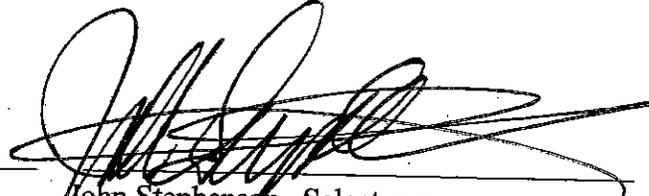
We have always tried to be free and open with Mr. Lord but it seems to have backfired. For his own ends, he has constructed a scenario that implies events that never occurred. So much for trying for transparency.

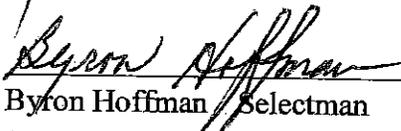
When we took office as members of the Osborn Select Board, we swore an oath, to faithfully discharge to the best of our abilities the duties incumbent on us as selectpersons of the Town of Osborn. And we have. We look forward to saying this to Mr. Lord's face.

We would be happy to be present when the Board hears Mr. Lord's appeal in order to address the Board and answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


Roger S. Waterman 1st Selectman


John Stephenson Selectman


Byron Hoffman Selectman


Greg Fasset Selectman in 2012-2013

