

Fairhaven halts overnight use of turbines

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The Fairhaven Board of Health voted unanimously to shut down the town's two wind turbines between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. beginning tonight.

The vote was made at a joint meeting of the boards of health and selectmen in a packed banquet room. After the three board members approved the motion to shut down the turbines at night, which was made by Chairman Peter DeTerra, the roughly 30-person audience erupted in applause.

"It's time to let this town heal," DeTerra said.

At the meeting, the board of selectmen also voted to put the turbines' developers on 30 days notice because state testing of the turbines revealed that the turbines not only violated state noise regulation but also violated the contract between developers and the Board of Selectmen. Under that contract, noise from the turbines cannot exceed 60 decibels at the nearest property. Testing on Mill Road in August revealed the turbine noise did exceed that number.

"You knew about this months ago, and I have to say I feel a little offended that our town is in turmoil and you sat back and didn't tell us until we decided to act," selectmen Geoffrey Haworth told developers Gordon Deane and Sumul Shah, who were also at the meeting.

After the votes the board of selectmen went into executive session with the developers to further discuss contract renegotiations. Shah said he would not comment on the votes until after the executive session had ended.

Turbine opponent Louise Barteau summed up the sentiments of turbine neighbors with a single word: "Yay."

"Honestly, I'm really proud of our boards today," she said.

--Ariel Wittenberg

See original newspaper article:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130610/NEWS/130619973>