

## WIND FARM

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response to Question 8 on the 2006 ballot, among other non-binding growth management questions, 61 percent of island voters said they were against wind turbines in Nantucket Sound.

Blustery rhetoric continues blowing in both directions, especially with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement reporting, in general, that the project will cause negligible to minor impacts on the environment, with only moderate impacts on sea birds, scenic views, navigation and fish species.

Save Our Sound's Wattley points to what he sees as a paradox of a green energy project producing what he believes will be higher electricity costs. Rodgers, on the other hand, said Cape Wind will indeed set its own rates but that they will remain constant for 15 to 20 years.

Wattley also believes that the MMS released its DEIS too soon to be adequately examined, and did not wait for two crucial sets of information — the U.S. Coast Guard's Terms and Conditions for use of Nantucket Sound, and the MMS' own promulgation of regulations for renewable energy for the Outer Continental Shelf, which was supposed to have been completed within 270 days of the Energy Policy Act's

enactment in 2005.

"At this point, how can we really have a fair assessment of Cape Wind when the Coast Guard hasn't issued the terms and conditions?" asked Wattley, who is calling for a 90-day extension of MMS' public comment period. "What's driving the MMS to push this past the Coast Guard?"

These concerns, however, are moot, according to MMS media spokesman Nicolette Nye, who said that the Coast Guard filed its terms and conditions with the MMS on Aug. 2 last year — a letter to that effect is in Appendix E of the DEIS — and that the Energy Policy Act granted the MMS authority to continue its review of Cape Wind's project as offshore power regulations were being written.

One major issue still pending is the Cape Cod Commission's Oct. 19, 2007 denial of Cape Wind's route for its transmission lines. Cape Wind filed an appeal of that ruling with the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board on Nov. 21 last fall.

### SPEAK UP!

The Nantucket hearing is the second to be held on the island, the first facilitated by the Army Corps of Engineers in March 2004 after the release of its DEIS.

Like the Army Corps hearing four

years ago, the March 11 input-gathering session will be tightly structured to follow the federal agency's public hearing protocol, said Nye.

"We're looking, of course, for comments and feedback on the DEIS, so we're of course looking for comments that are relevant: did we miss anything, are there facts and figures that we need, did we do something wrong? All the comments are taken and recorded and become part of the public record."

Those who plan to speak at the hearing cannot simply show up and raise their hands. All speakers must arrive an hour before the hearing begins at 5 p.m. to sign up to speak. Speakers will be called on in the order they registered, but

must wait for elected federal, state and island officials to speak, in that order.

A court stenographer will record the proceedings, but those who plan to speak can also submit comments in writing at the time of registration. Nye said the amount of time speakers get to air their views depends on how many people attend the hearing. If it is crowded, she said, the MMS will limit speaking times to three minutes.

"All comments are weighed equally," said Nye. "A comment from the public is just as important to us as [one from] a member from an environmental group or an elected official. This is part of the review process. This is what the DEIS is for." ■

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

In accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and pursuant to Regulation 310CMR10:05, et seq., and Nantucket By-Law Chapter 136, Section 3D, the Nantucket Conservation Commission will hold a Public Meeting on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Annex Conference Room at 37 Washington Street to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Tristram's Group to determine if the boundaries of resource areas depicted on plans submitted are accurately delineated and if the work and area depicted on plans referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or any wetlands bylaw of Nantucket, at 58, 60, 62 and 64 Arkansas Avenue, Assessors Map 59.4, Parcels 157, 33, 34, 35 and 37.

NANTUCKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and pursuant to Regulation 310CMR10:05, et seq., and with Nantucket By-Law Chapter 136, Section 3D, the Nantucket Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in the Town Annex Conference Room at 37 Washington Street to consider the Notice of Intent filed by The Linda Loring Nature Foundation to allow for the construction of trails and walking paths, construction of wooden boardwalks and bridges and for the construction of bird viewing blinds and platforms within bordering vegetated wetlands and their buffer zones at 90 and 110 Eel Point Road, Assessors Map 32, Parcel 33 and Assessors Map 39, Parcels 1 and 2.

NANTUCKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and pursuant to Regulation 310CMR10:05, et seq., and Nantucket By-Law Chapter 136, Section 3D, the Nantucket Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Annex Conference Room at 37 Washington Street to consider the request to amend Order of Conditions SE48-1941 filed by Little Point Acquisition Co., LLC to allow for the construction of brick walkways and installation of landscaping within the buffer zone to a coastal bank at 11 Hallowell Lane Assessors Map 30, Parcels 13 and 57.1.

NANTUCKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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In accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and pursuant to Regulation 310CMR10:05, et seq., and with Nantucket By-Law Chapter 136, Section 3D, the Nantucket Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in the Town Annex Conference Room at 37 Washington Street to consider the Notice of Intent filed by Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman to allow for the construction of beach stairs and decking, to allow for the removal of invasive species, implementation of a re-vegetation plan, installation of utilities within a coastal bank, coastal dune, coastal beach and their associated buffer zones at 17 Nonantum Avenue, and 2 and 3 Western Avenue, Assessors Map 87, Parcels 58, 59 and 108.

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NANTUCKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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NANTUCKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION