

Montrose Borough Planning Commission Minutes

October 20, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7PM by Planning Commission member Mary Zalewski.

Members in attendance:

Mary Zalewski

Gary Barnhart

Bob Templeton

Attendees: Alyssa Sprout MB Secretary

Reading & Approval of the Agenda:

Reading & Approval of Minutes: No Minutes Presented

Public Comment: NONE

Planning Commission member Gary Barnhart stated he is not in favor of allowing more than one wind turbine on a piece of property within the Montrose Borough. He stated there aren't any or may only be very few parcels big enough in the borough to even consider having 2. He also brought up battery storage. Mr. Barnhart stated these batteries need a storage area and some companies could place them inside the home or in at least in basements. He stated this has potential for a major fire hazard. Alyssa stated firefighters responding to an unknown type of fire could potentially be walking into a fire that involves these batteries and that could change the whole dynamic of the way the fire should be fought. A fire with these batteries has the potential to be very dangerous if county 911 and or the fire department are unaware of batteries being on site at a fire.

Alyssa Sprout stated she could call the fire chief if the Planning Commission members would like an opinion from a fire company standpoint. Fire Chief Preston Sprout stated over a phone conversation, the borough should consider having those who apply for the

solar/wind have a requirement that the homeowner or landowner must inform the fire department or Susquehanna County of their battery storage. He stated they should inform either entity as to where the batteries are located on the property. It was also suggested that the homeowner should have signage posted on their property as to where the battery or batteries are located. Alyssa thanked the fire chief for his input on this matter.

Mr. Barnhart also mentioned that some research may need to be done on an alarm system for the batteries if they are located within the home. He stated perhaps there is already a type of alarm system for overheating or gas that the batteries may give off.

Planning Commission member Bob Templeton stated there should be a height requirement/ limit for the wind turbines. He also inquired if there is or should be a fall zone for the turbines.

It was a unanimous decision that the Montrose Borough Planning Commission does not recommend any more than 1 wind turbine on a parcel within the Montrose Borough. Planning Commission would like the Borough to keep in consideration the discussion involving battery storage and put in place when residents file for these permits that fire departments and county 911 officials be made aware of battery storage and have signage to post where battery is located on their property.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00PM

Signed:

Alyssa Sprout

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