

# Cape Vincent LDC sends out survey asking about wind farm

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CAPE VINCENT — It's easy to ruffle feathers in Cape Vincent.

Just follow the Cape Vincent Local Development Corp.'s footsteps and send out 2,000 surveys that ask questions about wind turbines.

L. Sam DeLong, chairwoman of the LDC, said the surveys

were designed to solicit information for the drafting of a downtown master plan.

"It was decided the Local Development Corp. would send out a survey to get the pulse of the community as to what they wanted," she said. "When you're developing a master plan, you need to know your limits."

Ms. DeLong said wind tur-

bines in the town of Cape Vincent could affect what business owners and community members are willing to do in the village's downtown area, a point that Town Supervisor Thomas K. Rienbeck disputes.

"My question is what does wind power have to do with downtown revitalization of the village? The answer I got is they'll

be 1,000 feet from the village," he said, referring to proposed turbine locations for the St. Lawrence Wind Farm, one of two proposed wind farms in the town.

The survey asks residents if they are in favor of a wind farm in the town, and how far they believe turbines should be from

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the village. It also asks respondents to identify whether turbines would have a positive, negative or no effect on the downtown, quality of life, character and natural beauty of Cape Vincent. It includes a map of St. Lawrence Wind Farm's proposed turbine locations.

Mr. Rienbeck said he is disappointed the survey identifies village Mayor Timothy D. Maloney, Jefferson County Legislator Michael J. Docteur, R-Cape Vincent, and him as being on the Local Development Corp.'s board of directors. Mr. Rienbeck said none of the men approved the distribution of the survey.

"It implies we sent this survey out," he said.

Ms. DeLong acknowledged the three officials were not at the meeting when the survey was finalized. She said Mr. Docteur and Mr. Maloney had been at previous meetings and were aware that a survey was being drafted. Mr. Rienbeck was in the dark, she said, because he does not regularly attend LDC meetings.

"It was not done in secrecy," she said.

Mr. Rienbeck said he has not attended the past few meetings because of conflicts. He is normally e-mailed minutes, but he has not received any for the March meeting at which the survey was completed, he said.

Mr. Docteur said he had a

scheduling conflict the night the survey was finalized. He has not seen it yet, he said, but he knew a survey with some questions about wind turbines was going to be distributed.

"I did ask to review the survey before it went out to the public. I did not have an opportunity to do that," he said.

Mr. Maloney said he was going to review the document as well. It was his own oversight not to inquire about it when he could not attend the meeting, he said. The fact that turbines were addressed in the survey does not upset him.

"We cannot ignore the fact that wind turbines are a possibility," he said.

Ms. DeLong said the LDC needed to send the surveys out because it is contracted with the village to create the master plan by July. The LDC is using a state \$24,000 grant to create the plan, she said. The results of the survey will be submitted to the town, village and Cape Vincent Library in May. The survey also addresses other issues, including residential development, tourism and cleanliness.

The Wind Power Ethics Group, a citizens organization that has opposed wind power in Cape Vincent, did not play a role in creating the survey, Ms. DeLong said. To her knowledge, no one on the survey committee has taken a pro-turbine position either.