

Wind farm proposal gusting along

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Wind Prospect developmental manager Andy MacCallum (right) talks about his company's proposed Fairmont Wind Farm at an open house May 12 at St. Andrew Junior School. (Richard MacKenzie photo)

It was a small turnout for Wind Prospect Inc.'s second public open house on its proposed Fairmont Wind Farm, which took place on the evening of May 12 at St. Andrew Junior School.

And while there was only eight people who came by, Wind Prospect development manager Andy MacCallum said the modest number does nothing to slow down the project's momentum.

"We've done a lot of these public meetings before with our projects, mostly in Ontario, and it seems like the

first meeting attracts a lot of people then the second meeting, six-months to a year later, you don't get as many people," MacCallum said. "Everyone has already heard of it and now they just want the project built."

Wind Prospect Inc. is proposing to develop a two-turbine wind energy project with a capacity of approximately 4.6 megawatts.

The project would be entirely located in the Fairmont Road and Triton Brook Road area.

MacCallum said the main objective of the open house was to present a draft he had completed the week before of the environmental assessment.

He talked about the next step now that the second open house is in the books.

"I recently submitted (the draft) to Nova Scotia environmental assessment branch," he said. "They take it and send it out to all the other regulators... the department of environmental resources, department of transportation, people like that.

"They make comments on it and then it comes back to me through the environment assessment branch. After that is when I'll write the final environmental assessment and pretty much, at the same time, I'll be going through the rezoning process."

MacCallum said it's exciting to be at this stage.

Wind Prospect CEO Helen Browne shares his excitement.

Speaking at the open house, Browne talked about the company's experience.

"We're an international company who has worked purely in wind energy," she said. "We've been established since 1992 so the experience in the company, in regards to wind energy, is vast.

"If you look around there are not many who have been around for that long."

She added that they are a company that does developing, construction and operation.

"We do the whole package," she said.

Locally, Wind Prospect is based in Halifax with five people working out of a Barrington Street office.

Browne said while the company has wind farms in places like England, Ireland and Australia, it would great to have one so close to where they work.

"We're very excited to be working in Nova Scotia where we all live," she said. "There is great policy here. The government trying to encourage renewable, it's what we need for the future."

Information on the project can be found at the Wind Prospect website at www.windprospect.ca.