Town of Sharon

Municipal Solar Oversight Committee

Minutes for 3/1/21

**Committee Attendees**

George Aronson, Xander Shapiro, Aleksander X. Tomic, Rob Maidman, Silas Fyler

**Presentation by DSD for MassDEP Post Closure Use Permit Application**

Josh Burdett from Distributed Solar Design (DSD) presented a project overview and draft design that will be submitted to MassDEP as part of the Post Closure Use Permit Application. During the presentation some question came up from both committee members and residents. They were:

1. From George Aronson - Is the berm on the cap? Josh responded yes.
2. From George Aronson - Would you see subsidence from the berm on the landfill? DSD responded the point source weight under the berm is not different than the solar array point weight. We do not expect much subsidence as it is edge of the waste mound, the waste is not thick in the area and it was capped 30 years ago. Most subsidence is done at this point.
3. From George Aronson – would the berm have an impact on stormwater controls? DSD responded that the design addresses this by having two sections that allow a split in water flow
4. From Rob Maidman – Can the berm be higher since the PSI is well within the limits for the landfill cap. There was much discussion with concerns of slope of the berm as the height increases, width of berm as height increases, and effects on storm water flow and velocity. Josh noted that there are few if any berms on landfill solar projects and thus few precedents. While there was no conclusion it was decided to have DSD, in its submittal to MassDEP, to ask about the max height they would allow and design flexibility in general.
5. From Siddharth Jeevan (54 Azalea) – Can the solar array be shifted farther to the Mountain St side away from Azalea Rd side? Josh responded that while technically feasible it would complicate both the look and the structuring of the full array as the strings would not shift evenly.
6. From Glen Silverman (58 Azalea) – Can we install taller trees in the beginning rather than waiting for the 5 to 10 years for plant growth? Josh advised that trees over 10 feet would have a harder time acclimating to their new location and would have a higher failure rate.
7. From Glen Silverman (58 Azalea) – Felt the plantings would not provide any mitigation until 5 to 10 years have passed.
8. From Ron Stern (46 Azalea) – Can the berm be extended further south to help with mitigation from his house and further down Azalea? Josh said he would look into it.
9. From Siddharth Jeevan (58 Azalea) – The sight line review is only looking at one angle across the landfill. Can we see other angles across the landfill? Xander responded the rendering views from the houses did provide an idea of this.
10. From Xander Shapiro – Is it possible to have an iterative process with changes for mitigations with MassDEP and its approval process. DSD said it is possible within limits
11. From Siddharth Jeevan (58 Azalea) – Can the access road be moved to allow the berm to be larger? George Aronson and Josh answered that MassDEP would not allow additional excavation or disturbance of the the cap in any way and excavation for a new access road would be a big constraint in the approval process.

George Aronson asked if should we extend the process for comments on the application or should we do a simultaneous iterative process to refine the mitigation issues as MassDEP moves through its permitting. Committee agreed that a simultaneous iterative process was the way to go with another presentation by DSD on the berm extension to the south. George asked if we could do this by next Monday on 3/8? Josh thought the engineering was possible but not visualization. Rob Maidman will contact residences on Mountain Street to seek their comments for the Monday 3/8 meeting.

George asked if we could skip rest of agenda as time was getting late. Committee agreed. Meeting was adjourned around 6:40pm. **Next Meeting to be on March 8th at 4:30pm**