**Town of Sharon**

**Municipal Solar Oversight Committee**

**Minutes for 11/21/2022 meeting held on Zoom 4:30 PM**

**Welcome**

Committee Attendees: George Aronson (Chair), Silas Fyler, Rob Maidman, Chris Pimental, Xander Shapiro (5/6)

Town Staff: David Ruggiero, Town Energy Manager

Guest Attendees: Allen Giles (Solect)

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed for meetings on September 19, 2022, and October 31, 2022. It was noted that the draft minutes needed to be corrected to refer to “Xander and Rob” rather than “Xander and Silas” in the discussion of the Middle School solar PV project. Both minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Status of existing projects**

George reported that the final interconnection study for the Mountain Street Landfill solar PV project had been received from Eversource. The project will go forward subject to supply chain issues. Construction might start over summer 2003 with energization targeted by April 2024. DSD anticipated filing for SMART Block 7 by the end of 2022.

DSD project manager Jackie Bruce had reported to George that Eversource has begun its screening level review of the interconnection for the Gavins Pond solar PV project

Allen Giles reported that the High School ISA is still undergoing the Eversource review process. Solect’s attorneys are working with Town Counsel to finalize the agreements for execution by mid-December.

**DPW yard Solar PV Project.**

Allen provided a PowerPoint presentation. The DPW yard would hold two separate projects. One would be a canopy at the edge of the site connected to the meter at the DPW building (111.36 KW DC). To the extent power is generated in excess of the building needs, virtual net-metering credits would be applied to other DPW accounts. The second project would be on the roof of the Public Safety vehicle garage (67.2 KW DC), which installation would include four Level 2 EV chargers: two for DPW and two for Public Safety. The latter project would have the remainder of the power delivered by trenching to the transformer at the Public Safety Building. The two projects are technically on separate parcels and would be connected to separate meters, and so would not run afoul of the “Single Parcel Rule” that limits solar PV facilities to one project per parcel.

Allen provided an aerial photo showing the residences nearest to the DPW yard to provide perspective on need for abutter visual mitigation. Abutters to the north along Pleasant Park Road would be screened from the canopy by existing vegetation and grade separation between their back yards and the canopy. Abutters south of the DPW yard along South Main Street and Flintlock Road would not have clear site lines to the rooftop panels or the canopy. The Committee did not see a reason to pursue mitigation for either set of abutters.

Solect had provided a copy of the LOI in advance of the meeting, which were distributed to the Committee. The following comments were noted:

* Get written confirmation of support for the projects from the DPW, Police Chief and Fire Chief. David will make the contacts on this.
* Fix typo in the LOI from “Block 78” to “Block 7.”
* Clarify that the Town’s commitment to execute definitive agreements depends on approval by the Select Board and Town Meeting.
* Clarify that the insurance requirements shown in the LOI apply during the development period, and that additional insurance requirements during construction and operations would be addressed in the definitive agreements.

A motion was made and seconded

“That the Committee recommend to the Town Manager that the Town enter into the proposed Letters of Intent for the two solar PV projects proposed for the DPW yard as presented by Solect Energy Development, LLC (Solect) per the presentation, subject to the following conditions:

1. Written confirmation of support from the DPW, the Fire Chief and the Police Chief.
2. Amendment of the text of the LOI’s to reflect the points made during the meeting, which are as follows:
	1. In Item 2., language is inserted to clarify that Host’s agreement to execute definitive agreements is subject to approval by the Select Board and Town Meeting.
	2. In Attachment 3, language is added to clarify that definitive agreements will contain insurance requirements during construction and the term of commercial operations.”

The Committee approved the resolution by a vote of 5-0. George was tasked with documenting the motion and sharing it with Town Manager Fred Turkington.

**Middle School solar PV projects**

Allen had hoped to have renderings available for the meeting, but was not successful. Four renderings were requested. The Committee agreed to delegate review of the renderings to Xander and Rob before the next meeting. When materials were available and n acceptable form, Xander and Rob would hold individual or small group meetings with the abutters, then schedule a general public meeting.

The Town could enter into an LOI after vote of the Select Board, but Town Meeting approval would be required to approve a 20-year PPA and/or site lease. The next Town Meeting is scheduled for the first week of May. That would require agreements to be signed by March, and development of a warrant article 6-8 weeks before the Town Meeting. Going backwards, the public meeting would be best held by the end of January 2023.

**Group discussion and topics**

* Next meeting date set for Monday, January 9, 2022, 4:30 pm, after the Middle School abutter meetings and before the Public Meeting
* George will inquire with the Town Manager regarding the status of the terms of existing Committee members, and whether a new member might be considered for the member that has been unable to attend past meetings.

**Adjourn**