**Town of Sharon**

**Municipal Solar Oversight Committee**

**Minutes for 9/19/2022 meeting held on Zoom**

**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: Jackie Bruce (DSD), Josh Burdett (DSD), Allan Giles (Solect)

**Minutes**

Previously approved for all prior meetings that had a quorum

**Review of Final Site Plan for Mountain Street Landfill Solar PV Project**

Jackie Bruce presented the plan for DSD. Key changes include the following:

* Panel size increased to 580 W per module from 480 W per module, requiring slightly fewer modules and a slightly modified configuration adjusted to move panels slightly away from the Azalia Drive abutters and from the center service road
* DSD supplied the modified design to MassDEP and will provide to the Conservation Commission. Due to the low level of scope of changes, no further formal review is anticipated by either MassDEP or the Conservation Commission.
* New battery energy storage system (BESS) and transformer within the same footprint.
* Rob asked whether the change in transformer would affect potential noise impact. Josh responded that the noise impacts would be within the same range, and that DSD was still bound by the mitigation requirements should there be an issue.
* DSD has agreed to install a 7-foot deer fence with wooden posts instead of a metal chain-link fence
* DSD would add slats to screen the Gap as visual mitigation on the Greenstein property. y
* Xander had spoken with abutters previously. The proposed mitigations should be deemed acceptable based on feedback to date
* There is no specific information on when Eversource will supply its last study. DSD does not anticipate any impacts on the design, since the poles would be across Mountain Street from the landfill until the road crossing, and all interconnecting poles would stay within the marked right-of-way area.
* Silas asked if the interconnection with 3-phase lines along Morse Street would be closer than the Middle School. Perhaps, but that is subject to Eversource discretion and not something to raise at this point in the process.
* Price adjustments per Site Lease Schedules 1 and 2 can be finalized after receiving the last Eversource interconnection study. DSD anticipates SMART Block 7. ASO risk management might also need to be addressed.
* The Select Board is scheduled to meet on September 29 and would review the Committee’s recommendation at that meeting.

Rob moved that the MSOC recommend that the Select Board approve the site plan as presented and amended, subject to conditions on ongoing compliance with the Site Lease and applicable permits and approvals; implementation of mitigation measures, mitigation of any noise impacts should they occur; updating any impacts resulting from the Eversource Interconnection Study should it occur; and agreement on adjustments to Schedules 1 and 2 to the Site lease to address final interconnection costs and other item referenced therein. Silas seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee delegated to George as Chair to present the recommendation to the Select Board.

**Updates on solar PV projects in progress**

Gavins Pond solar (DSD): still in queue awaiting start of Eversource interconnection study.

High School PV project (Solect)

* Solect has not yet sent the Town agreements in executable form for signature. The PPA price update is awaiting confirmation of impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act on the investment tax credit and its impact on project economics.
* BESS is still a part of the project. Solect prefers to wait for the results of the Eversource study as is rather than re-start the process without a BESS.

Heights battery project

* Solect is mobilizing for BESS installation. Schedule has mechanical completion by December 2022, Eversource permission to operate in January 2023 and final close-out by March 2023 of all punch list items, followed by turn-over to Enel X, which will operate and manage invoicing and payments.

DPW yard solar PV projects (Solect)

* Solect recommends a canopy at the edge of the site where the DPW is removing fuel tanks.
* Solect is also reviewing cost to add a trench to the main DPW office building, rooftop panels over the firetruck storage area, and sending the power behind the meter to the Public Safety building.
* The DPW has asked for EV chargers. Solect is still reviewing the design.

Middle School solar PV projects (Solect)

* Panels need to be setback 50 feet from the street to avoid a need for a variance.
* To get a variance, elevations would be critical and the project would me more visible to abutters.
* Xander and Rob will get meet with the MS Principal and will get abutter feedback before a decision is made on seeking a variance.
* Canopies must be over parking areas, walkways or waterways to qualify for SMART incentives. Canopies would be 13’6” high or more and 15’6” at highest point.
* Most recent PPA price calculation was 11.79 c/kWh, down from 13 c/kWh for prior design.
* Premature to enter into LOI until design is further refined.

**Group discussion and topics**

* Recommendation will be presented to Select Board at meeting on September 29, 2022.
* Next meeting date set for October 24, 2022

**Adjourn**

**Approved by 5-0 vote of the Committee at meeting held on November 21, 2022.**