

**Town of Sharon**  
**Municipal Solar Oversight Committee**  
**Minutes for 01/09/2023 meeting held 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Zoom**

**Welcome**

Committee Attendees: George Aronson (Chair), Rob Maidman, Xander Shapiro, Chris Pimental [4:55] (4/5)

Guest Attendees: Allen Giles (Solect), Timothy Broussard (Town DPW)

**Status of Committee Appointments**

G Aronson, Silas Fyler and Chris Pimental of the Energy Advisory Committee (EAC), and Rob Maidman and Xander Shapiro of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) were re-appointed. The Committee was originally envisioned to have 6 members – three from the EAC and three from the EDC. Rob and Xander will consider a third member from EDC or otherwise to restore the balance envisioned when the Committee was created. Three members will constitute a quorum until a sixth member is appointed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed from the meeting on November 21, 2022 and approved by a vote of 3-0.

**Status of existing projects**

George presented draft text prepared for the 2022 Town Annual report reviewing status of operating solar PV facilities at East and Heights Elementary Schools and other projects under development. Installation of the Heights Elementary School project is nearly complete subject to supply chain delays for a few components. The Mountain Street Landfill project now has a completed interconnection study and is completing updates to the MassDEP post-closure use permit. Construction is anticipated to start in May 2023. The High School project is awaiting a few additional signatures on project agreements. The project's Eversource system impact study is in progress. The Letter of Intent (LOI) for the DPW project is ready for signature. Allen will re-send to the Town Manager and copy George and Timothy. Eversource has begun its screening level review of the interconnection for the proposed Gavins Pond solar PV project. Xander and Rob noted that thoughts of a project at the Sharon Housing Authority are too preliminary to merit being referenced in the draft text of the Annual Report.

Regarding the Middle School, Xander is pleased with the final presentation prepared by Solect. The next step would be to share the presentation with the ten abutters and to bring the design up the ladder within the School Department for review, first with staff, then with the School Committee.

Allen noted that MassDOER had released updated electricity values for the SMART benefit calculation, which would have a modest impact on the proposed electricity price to the Town. Allen will confirm the impact.

Rob noted that the warrant for Town Meeting opens on January 13 and closes on March 29, so it might be possible to include the Middle School project on the Town Meeting warrant. Rob noted that passage of a warrant article at town Meeting is subject to review by the Attorney General, which can take up to six months. George noted that the definitive agreements for the Middle School project should acknowledge that approval is conditioned on not being overturned by a subsequent adverse ruling.

Regarding the draft zoning article, all agreed it is a good start that might benefit from modest clarifications. Comments included the following:

- Add language in 7.7.1, purpose, to clarify that the intent is to provide guidance to facilitate safe and successful installations.
- Delete reference in 7.7.1 to require financial assurance, which could be an unnecessary barrier to solar PV project development.
- Keep comment on need for language on potential regulation by the Planning Board.
- In 7.7.3, delete the word “Active” which is not defined.
- In 7.7.3, add language clarifying that all solar PV rooftop installation that are accessory to an existing or new structure are allowed.
- Change “Principle” to “Principal” everywhere it occurs.
- In the table in 7.7.4, clarify the headings “Principal use” and “Accessory Use.”
- In 7.7.5, delete the exception for necessary connection equipment to utility transmission facilities.
- In 7.7.8(5), replace the reference propane or natural gas generator with “battery energy storage system”.
- In 7.7.8(11), delete the undefined reference to Section 10.1.9.
- Keep the comment JM3 and indicate the need for Town Counsel review.
- Keep comments JM4 and JM5.
- Delete Section 10.1.18 as unnecessary. A requirement for financial assurance is an unnecessary barrier to small projects, but could always be added by the Planning Board as a condition to approval of a Site Plan Review.

George asked Timothy about removal of the shed at the landfill. Timothy noted that the shed contained several containers and equipment from a variety of Town departments. It is not known if there is utility service. George asked Timothy to confirm the scope of what it would take to empty the shed and disconnect utility services as a prerequisite to removal, presumably by DSD.

#### **Group discussion and topics**

- Next meeting date set for Monday, February 27, 2022, 4:30 pm

**Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm**