

Town of Sharon
Municipal Solar Oversight Committee
Minutes for 4/26/21

Welcome

Glen Silverman, Siddharth Jeevan, Robert Violanto, Tim Wagner, Josh Burdett

Committee Attendees

George Aronson, Xander Shapiro, Alexander X. Tomic, Rob Maidman, Chris Pimentel, Silas Fyler, David Ruggerio

Approval of Minutes for 4/5/2021

Committee passed both minutes by a vote of 5-0-0. Alexander X. Tomic was not present.

Landfill Solar Array

- 1) George – described DSD letter from 4/21 that berm will be eliminated from design due to cost.
 - a. DSD described why they eliminated berm. Keep landscaping on western side and remainder of landscaping fund for Azalea Road side for homeowners to use on their own land. DSD assumed that town would renegotiate Schedule 1 of site lease agreement. They provided a new landscape design without berm but still with shift of panels that 5 ft berm would have required.
 - b. Rob – asked why George was not point person for landscape discussions and why DSD went around committee to talk to Fred Turkington? Also please explained where the \$35,000 of landscaping came from? DSD said the \$35,000 was in their internal landscaping budget on a RFP price proposal.
 - c. Chris – Where did the \$500,000 for the berm come from? Who knew this cost?
 - d. Xander added why the submittal of PCUP discussed with 5ft berm without knowledge of cost?
 - e. Tim – MassDEP said this was unprecedented (berm on landfill) and the full engineering was not fully understood. We did not mean to do an end run around the committee.
 - f. DSD discussions with MassDEP revealed that they would not do an iterative process and only wanted one design.
 - g. Xander – why wasn't due diligence done on cost of the berm beforehand? This is inappropriate.
 - h. George – described where we are now, the need to move forward on PCUP and mitigation. What do we need to understand the alternatives for mitigation and how that process will go forward? And how do we address and restore the process of trust between parties?
 - i. Silas - What is the cost breakdown of the \$35,000?
 - j. Josh - western side is \$15,000 and the east side is direct payment to neighbors for \$20,000.
 - k. George – two requests. One - see a plan for eastern neighbors to understand relative location. Two – ambient background noise measurements for perspective on potential impacts.
 - l. Robert – his concerns are evergreen trees for screening and either sound barriers or moving the equipment pad further away. Also, Mountain Street is a designated scenic road.
 - m. Xander – can we use funds left over from the interconnection?
 - n. George – make proposals :
 - i. engage the tree warden
 - ii. more technical site plan
 - iii. decide how to respond to violation of trust?
 - o. Silas – can we submit the PCUP and are we still within the 100 ft wetland lines? Josh, yes we are still within the 100 ft line.
 - p. Josh – did a walk-through of the present electric design sent to committee.
 - q. George – when do you have to submit the PCUP? Josh – what needs to be provided?

- r. Xander – makes a motion to:
 - i. Plan for a meeting next week
 - ii. Discuss estimate for veg mitigation for Mountain Street with improved coverage, perhaps by evergreen trees, and outside project zone for mitigation on Azalea Road.
 - iii. DSD coming up with solution for sound mitigation for Mountain Street side.
 - iv. Not putting mitigation on private property with goal to put on Town property.
- s. Chris – what is the impact to the waiting to submit PCUP? Josh – only something longer than a three week delay would be an issue
- t. Josh – who is the “we” on mitigation, DSD or MSOC? Xander - DSD for sound and MSOC for vegetative mitigation.
- u. George – Can DSD submit berm design to MassDEP and then what happens if it is pulled? Josh – DSD would have to submit a “submission modification”. Close to a submitting application again.
- v. Vote 4-0-0 Rob and Alexander not present on Xander’s motion.

Heights Elementary Solar Array

Silas Fyler - quick update on Heights. Looks like system is turned on.

East Elementary Solar Array

- 1) Xander Shapiro – gave update on mitigation and plantings.

Next meeting May 3rd at 4:30pm