**MUNICIPAL SOLAR OVERSIGHT**

**COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 20th, 2021**

 **At 4:30 PM, Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** George Aronson, Chair; Silas Fyler, Rob Maidman, Chris Pimentel, Xander Shapiro,

David Ruggiero, Town Energy Manager

**Minutes**

Minutes from the meeting on 25 October 2021 had not been approved at prior meetings due to absence of a quorum. A motion to approve was moved and seconded and passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

**Comments on 2021 Draft Annual Report**

George Aronson had circulated a draft that provided brief updates on the projects in operation and moving forward. Xander suggested adding anticipated compensation to the Town. David Ruggiero noted he is working on the annual report for the Energy Advisory Committee and will coordinate. George will follow-up and ensure the report is submitted before the deadline in January 2022.

**DSD project updates – (Landfill, Gavins Pond)**

On the landfill project:

* DSD anticipates that the MassDEP Post-Closure Use Permit will be issued before the end of December 2021.
* Eversource responded to the interconnection study application amendment with questions – which means the study is being reviewed. DSD anticipates approval in January 2022.
* The Notice of Intent to the Conservation Commission is complete. DSD needs the signature of the Town Manager as land owner. DSD hopes to get the signature tomorrow and then submit electronically.
* DSD anticipates that the SEMA ASO study and the DPU study on cost allocation will be complete in January 2022, at which the liability for interconnection costs will be known.
* When all of the above are compete, the project will proceed to reserve the SMART Block, fill in the agreements, get the final Town approval, then proceed to financing and construction – anticipateds in spring or summer of 2022.

The Gavins Pond project is still waiting in the queue for Eversource to perform the interconnection study.

**Planning for next projects**

Middle School canopy. – Xander and Rob reported on a successful meeting with the Middle School Principal and Tony Kopacz. The principal has had much experience and good relationships with the neighbors during past construction projects and does not anticipate opposition. He offered the auditorium to host informational meetings. He is open to a wide variety of areas for canopies, including perhaps over the tennis courts! He is also open to EV charging stations. Rob suggested need for drawings and schematics with a few options to show the abutters, which the vendor would need to do. Vendor procurement options were then discussed, including Solect under the Power Options contract, DSD if the MOU time period could be extended, and a separate RFP. Committee consensus was that an RFP process would delay project development at the risk of pushing out SMART Blocks to the point where the incentives for a canopy project would reduce compensation to the Town and might not even support feasibility. Solect has indicated interest in the project, where DSD has indicated not being interested in projects of less than 500 kW.

The Committee agreed on the following next steps:

* Develop a sketch to illustrate the range of facility options and ask Solect to provide a rough range of potential capacity based on the sketch.
* Contact Town Council to clarify whether it would be feasible or advisable to work with DSD under the terms of the MOU now that it has expired.
* If feasible, contact DSD regarding their interest in going forward under the terms of the MOU. If they are interested, come back to the Committee to confirm next steps. If DSD is not interested, or if the MOU terms are not feasible or preferred, recommend award to Solect.

New High School – Solect has provided draft versions of the PPA, Site Lease, PPA amendment for a battery energy storage system, and PILOT agreements. George and David are doing an initial review, and then will coordinate with Fred regarding review by counsel. George contacted Gordon Gladstone of the Standing Building Committee, who indicated interest only to the extent involving coordination with or impacts on construction issues. David will contact the Superintendent regarding the process and level of review by the School Department and the School Committee.

New Library building – construction is on hold pending resolution of two new legal proceedings. George has had initial contact with the architect, Drayton Fair, via Gordon Gladstone and the Standing Building Committee, to confirm the rooftop is solar ready. Solect is interested in the project.

Well #5 – on hold until January 2022, when Solect would prepare a high-level conceptual design.

Heights Battery project – getting ready for construction early in 2022.

Other projects (Pond St. Ames parking lot) – no further developments at this time.

Next meeting: Monday January 10, 2022 at 4:30. Back-up date Monday, January 17, 2022

**Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm**