

Solar Committee Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, July 7th, 2022 @5:00 P.M.
Jonesport Town Office

Attendees: Cynthia Beauvais, Al Grignon, Kris Kelesian, Bill Nunan, Carrie Peabody
Unable to Attend: Kathy Baader-Howell, Paul Iossa

The Solar Power Committee held its first session on July 7th.

1. Nominations: The following Committee members were elected by the team to serve as follows.
 - Chairperson/Committee Secretary – Carrie Peabody
 - Co-chair – Kris Kelesian
 - Moderator/Zoom Coordinator – Bill Nunan
 - Project Plan / Task Coordinator – Al Grignon
2. The Committee agreed upon a meeting schedule through July/August. Meetings are open to the public @ 5PM at the Town Office unless otherwise noted. The July 14th meeting is cancelled due to member family/work obligations. The next Solar Committee meeting will be held on July 21st @5pm at the Town Office.
3. The Solar Moratorium expired on July 12th and was extended by the Selectboard to January 8th, 2023 to allow the Committee sufficient time to develop an ordinance.
4. The team discussed ideas for the generation of a solar ordinance in the Town of Jonesport. Kris Kelesian provided an excellent first draft of a solar ordinance comprised of existing town/state guidelines. Carrie P. will work with Kris K. and the team to generate a list of tasks/standards associated with the creation of a solar ordinance. Al G. will create a project plan from the draft tasks/standards to track/monitor team progress and milestones throughout the project.
5. The Committee reviewed existing solar ordinance guidelines for residential and commercial usage, discussed scenarios for usage / types of solar power systems, and reviewed solar power systems/guidelines used across the state of Maine. The scope of the Committee will focus on the Town of Jonesport's existing zoning laws in conjunction with MMA guidelines for a Solar ordinance. The draft ordinance presented by Kris K. will be utilized by the committee to create a synthesized version to use as a working model moving forward. The ordinance that is written should be simple to read through, easy to understand, and thorough with regard to the standards to be followed. The Committee agreed that the ordinance should cross-reference to existing ordinances, i.e. shoreland and land use to ensure consistency and eliminate redundancy and be segmented as commercial, residential, etc.
6. The Committee expressed a need for a public opinion poll/survey on solar energy use in town. How this will be conducted will be decided upon as we move forward in the discovery phase. General questions to consider might include: How many people use solar energy in town, what type of system are they using, is there a need for solar panels in Jonesport? How much does solar power cost to install? How efficient is it in Maine? How will panels be used by residents? Does Jonesport need to have solar farms? What are the setback rules? What health concerns might arise relating to EMF/EMR, what chemicals are used to clean panels? Are there

certain panel mount heights, roof restrictions/glare/shielding standards to be considered? Will building permits be needed? Concerns with panel breakage, decommissioning of components/parts, and disposal? Obviously many issues to research, investigate, and weed through to come up with an ordinance that meets the requirements of the citizens of Jonesport.

7. Benefits and Risks of solar power energy will be explored by the Committee during the discovery phase. Examples of current concerns include devaluation of property, solar installation costs, health risks, impact to community/neighbors, lack of understanding of how solar power works within the community, etc. Benefits of solar energy include reduction of fossil fuel usage, grid independence, variety of solar options, and it's a renewable year-round clean energy solution.
8. The committee will explore potential grants/other monies available to assist residents with Solar projects. Carrie P to contact Elaine Abbot and report on findings at the next meeting.
9. Kris K. provided documentation for the Committee to read through concerning the health risks of EMF/EMR Exposure from Solar Power. Kris provided health studies that have been done concerning EMF/EMR exposure, including Statement of the Problem and Summary For the Public by Cindy Sage, M.A. Sage Associates. Other handouts provided included Solar Energy Development Decommissioning (State of Maine S.P. 113 – L.D. 802, Chapter 34-D), Key Scientific Evidence and Public Health Policy Recommendations (Section 24) by David O. Carpenter, MD. Director, Institute for Health and the Environment/Cindy Sage, MA Sage Associates. Kris also provided several Biological-related handouts concerning the effects from Radiofrequency Radiation. Solar Farm benefits/impacts may be found at [solar - Community & Environmental Defense Services \(ceeds.org\)](http://solar-Community&EnvironmentalDefenseServices(ceeds.org)). These documents/research materials will be important for the Committee to consider during the ordinance development process.
10. Meetings will be held weekly until further notice. Our next meeting will be on **July 21 @ 5PM** at the **Town Office**.

Meeting schedule through August:

July 21, 28

August 4, 11, 18, 25