

## Solar Committee MINUTES – August 11<sup>th</sup> , 2022

Members present: Al Grignon, Cynthia Beauvais, Rick Crouthamer, Carrie Peabody

Absent: Kris Kelesian, Kathy Baader-Howell, Bill Nunan

Guest: Dona Cuppett

The minutes of August 4th were approved and sent to the town website for posting.

### Member Updates:

- The Selectboard interviewed and appointed Rick Crouthamel as a member of the Solar Committee on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Welcome Rick!

### Project Status/Tasks:

- Al Grignon presented a handwritten flowchart and draft outline of tasks associated with the ordinance project. The moratorium started July 12, 2022 and expires on January 8, 2023. The project task sheet tracks meetings, survey activities, time for research and compilation of data for ordinance development, review processes, ordinance approval cycles, through project completion / sign off by the town.

### Survey/feedback plan

- Public information sessions will provide the public with residential solar panel and commercial solar farms/solar energy systems facts, usage and other important information.
- Public info sessions will offer survey handouts.
- A more robust survey mailing will be conducted with the public in the fall.
- The survey will be sent through a saturation mailing by the Jonesport Post Office ensuring delivery to all mailboxes and post boxes. The effort will be funded by the town office. A separate webmail account has been set up for the public to make comment directly to the committee via email. The webmail address is [Survey@townofjonesport.com](mailto:Survey@townofjonesport.com) and will be advertised on the survey and on the town website.
- In preparation, the Team put together a **draft survey** with 3 brief Yes/No questions and 3 written responses which will be reviewed/finalized at our next meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Do you support residential solar panels? Yes/No
  - Do you support commercial solar farms? Yes/No
  - Are you interested in using solar energy in your home? Yes/No
  - Are you currently using solar energy in your home? Yes/No  
If so, what type: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Do you have any concerns about residential solar panels or commercial solar farms?  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

- Under what conditions would you support residential solar panels or commercial solar farms?  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Ordinance Discovery/Research:

- The team will use the Readfield ordinance in conjunction with Kris' draft as a framework and build upon it.  
MMA level standards are in our Land Use / Development and Shoreland Zone ordinances and can easily be cross-ref'd to.

The Model Site Plan Regulations and Municipal Solar Best Practice handouts provided by AI contain important information that can also be used.

- A news article on the Marshfield Solar Farm was shared with the team by Cynthia Beauvais.
- Rick Crouthamel and Dona Cuppett (Guest) shared their experience with residential solar panels.
- The team will review our Shoreland Zoning and Land Use / Development ordinances to determine standards warranting reference in the solar ordinance, i.e. height restrictions, Permit/fees? Setbacks, etc.
- Public Utilities solar usage/grid prospects for future incentives? What is available today? Do they buy back? Possibly speak/send info? (Carrie)
- Contacting UMM to see if there is anyone knowledgeable in the field of solar power that can lend their expertise (Rick).
- Contact the National Resource Council of Maine (Rick).
- Online solar presentation available? (AI)
- Contact Elaine Abbot, SCEC regarding experts in solar energy (Cynthia)

### Meeting schedule:

- The next Solar meeting is August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5PM at the Town Office.
- **Please note, the Solar Committee meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> is cancelled due to other town obligations by members. The next Solar Committee meeting will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup>.**