

Solar Committee MINUTES – September 12th , 2022

Members present: Cynthia Beauvais, Rick Crouthamel, Carrie Peabody

Absent: Kris Kelesian, Bill Nunan, Al Grignon

Guest: Dona Cuppett

Hello everyone,

The minutes of September 1st were approved and have been posted on the Town website on the Solar Committee meetings page.

Solar Surveys were delivered to all Jonesport residents on September 9th. We will continue to collect surveys until September 23.

On Sept 26th, we will analyze and compile results. To date, 7 surveys have been received. See attachment for surveys sent to the Committee to date.

Cynthia has sent a notice of the Commercial Solar Panel Survey effort to the Machias Valley News Observer for publication this week. The notice in the paper will hopefully entice others to complete the Survey that may not have yet participated.

Project Status/Tasks:

- Carrie Peabody provided an updated workplan. Public information sessions will not be conducted. The Survey dissemination plan is near complete with the exception of tallying responses on September 26.
- Al Grignon will update the project workplan to incorporate the completion / addition of work tasks.

Survey:

Kathy at the Town Office gave the team 7 surveys that had been turned in to date. The team reviewed the completed surveys, feedback is being recorded and responses in support/against solar energy systems has been noted. There were also responses/feedback sent to the Webmail address which is under review by Carrie/Rick. A scripted response will be sent to survey participants thanking them for their submission. Scripted response to use for Webmail: *“Thank you for your feedback. We appreciate your interest in the work the Commercial Solar Panel Committee is doing. We encourage the public to join weekly meetings @5PM on Monday evenings at the Town Office.”*

- **To access the survey on the Town Website: click on the ticker tape on the homepage, or:**
 - Select Town Government in the top menu bar
 - go to Town Meetings and Notices
 - select Solar Panel Ordinance Committee
 - choose Archived Meetings
 - scroll to SEPTEMBER 6th meeting
 - see the documents titled ANNOUNCEMENT and SURVEY
- Unfortunately the town website is only set up for agendas, minutes, and meeting announcements and not for posting standalone documents such as a survey. The girls at the town office did what they could to ensure it was done in a timely fashion and I thank them for taking time to put together the above instructions so that all know. Thank you again to Kathy/Irene for their assistance with the Survey posting.
- Survey return feedback:
 - The survey was posted on the town website and can be found by clicking on the Ticker tape, which directs residents to the Survey location.
- No problems so far with returning Surveys. We did however notice that one Survey was submitted by a resident in Machiasport. Of course feedback from outside of town will not be considered for the ordinance, however it was interesting to have a perspective from a resident not living in Jonesport.
- **Survey dissemination**
 - Rick/Dona updates to survey – finalized Sep 5 - COMPLETED
 - Carrie incorporating all survey changes from team into final print copy – Sep 5-6 - COMPLETED
 - Publication date –Cynthia write-up announcement for MVNO Sep 12 – FOR PUBLICATION WEDNESDAY Sep 14.

- Survey out for Print (800 copies) Carrie – Sep 7-8 - COMPLETED
- Surveys to Post Office for distribution – Sep 8-9 - COMPLETED
- Post surveys at town locations – Manaforts, Pizza place, Stewarts, Jonesport Post Office, Town Office/Website, Main Street Auto, Church's True Value, Paul's Garage, King's Hardware, Library, School – Sep 8-9 - COMPLETED
- Survey to run for two weeks (September 9-23)- IN PROGRESS
- Review/analyze survey responses Sep 26 (Team)

Ordinance review/draft:

- The team read through Kris Kelesian's draft ordinance word for word and compared content to the Readfield Ordinance and existing Land Use/Devt and Shoreland standards for Jonesport. Many questions to still answer. The team also discussed the need to incorporate MMA guidelines for Commercial Solar Energy Systems into the draft. Areas of focus were geared toward implementation of SES, Safety Issues, Application Checklist, Permitting, Decommission, Definitions, and Setback rules.
- Al Grignon will be putting together a FEE Table.
- Cynthia will take a look at decommissioning programs at the state level to see what standards are in place and what the regulations are.
- Carrie will look further at MMA guidelines to pull specific standards for commercial solar farms/panels that should be incorporated into the Jonesport ordinance.
- Cynthia will check in with Jen Peters to see what's new with the Solar ordinance being worked on in East Machias.
- Rick will provide the team with a recent Solar Panel study done by UMM.
- The Committee came to consensus that there are primarily three categories of SES: Large, Medium, and Small-scale.
- Ordinance considerations: ground mount, roof mount, glare, reflective shielding/fencing, noise, lot requirements, inspections, and pollutant concerns.
- Health concerns Electromagnetic Field Radiation (EMFR) and Electromagnetic Field (EMF) as researchers are studying whether EMF/EMFR can cause cancer or other harmful health effects.

Misc:

- Rick and Dona shared a case in Augusta where the DOT has authorized solar farms along I-95. The State was apparently not informed of the project.

Meeting schedule:

- The next Solar Committee meeting will be held on MONDAY September 19th at 5PM at the Town Office.

Attachments:

- Survey Responses as of Sep 12.