

FINAL Solar Committee MINUTES – September 19, 2022

Members present: Cynthia Beauvais, Rick Crouthamel, Al Grignon

Absent: Kris Kelesian, Bill Nunan, Carrie Peabody

Guest: Dona Cuppett

Thank you to Cynthia and Al for conducting the Solar meeting during my absence. Please find Cynthia's minutes below.

Review/Approve Minutes:

- The minutes of September 12st were approved and have been posted on the Town website on the Solar Committee meetings page.

Project Status/Tasks:

- The Survey dissemination plan is near complete with the exception of tallying/reviewing feedback responses on September 26.
- Al presented the updated project tasks. 39% done. On #71, 50% done.

Survey:

- The Commercial Solar Panel Survey was announced in the Machias Valley News Observer last Tuesday, Sep. 13.
- The team will continue to collect surveys until September 23. To date, the committee has received 55 surveys.
- Al will create an Excel spreadsheet with information that is collected from the survey responses/webmail feedback.
- On Sept 26th, the Team will analyze and compile results.
- Rick is unable to access the survey@townofjonesport.com webmail account to view survey responses on line to acknowledge receipt.

Ordinance review/draft:

- Al Grignon will work on a FEE Table.
- Cynthia waiting on draft of E. Machias ordinance from Jen Peters.
- Carrie compiling MMA guidelines / standards for commercial solar farms/panels.
- Questions were brought up as to where fees go and would they cover the actual costs from implementing the ordinance. Also question on where to place the fee schedule, etc. to minimize confusion. Al to check on this.
- Reviewed Readfield/Kelesian ordinance. Questions as to how to start the composition of the draft. Who will type, piecemeal, start with which example? Must make sure all is in line with current town ordinances.
- Changes will need to be made to existing Land Use/Devt and Shoreland Zone ordinances to accommodate the Solar ordinance.
- Ordinance changes can be voted upon at the next annual town meeting in March 2023.

Misc:

- Dona provided a handout with Augusta, Maine Solar Farm articles. Also SES language for the public hearing handout.
- Dona found info at LAFRA.org pertaining to firefighter guidelines on roof mounted systems.

- Rick posted a recent Solar Panel study done by UMM to the team on email last week.

Meeting schedule:

- The next Solar Committee meeting will be held on MONDAY September 26 at 5PM at the Town Office.