

Solar Committee Minutes – July 28, 2022

Members: Carrie Peabody (Chair/Secretary), Kris Kelesian (Co-Chair), Al Grignon (Project Task Coordinator), Bill Nunan (Zoom Coordinator), Kathy Baader-Howell, Cynthia Beauvais

- July 7th minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee and will be posted on the town website.

Project Status/Tasks:

- Al Grignon's Microsoft Project has expired. He will renew so we can track project status. Carrie discussed a draft task list to use as a guideline until we are able to input data into a program that will assist with task management. An example of a task framework is attached for your reference.
- Al provided a document on Version Control for ordinance development which the team will use. Handout provided at meeting.

Survey/feedback plan:

- The committee discussed how best to survey the town. It was decided that we want to focus on reaching all town residents for feedback, not just registered voters. The goal of the committee will be to conduct a Survey of the Public via a saturation mailing, coupled with Local Postings, Email feedback, handouts at town office, and public info sessions.
- Al presented a document from the University of Colorado at Boulder authored by Katherine Ide containing solar energy research and survey info. Al will review the types of questions asked. Possibly some of those questions can be used in our survey of the town. The team is encouraged to bring in potential survey questions and ideas for the next meeting. The team will pick out questions pertinent for our efforts here in Jonesport. Once questions are chosen, we can finalize the survey.
- Carrie will check to see if a saturation mailing can be funded by the town so that we are sure to reach all resident mailboxes. Hope to set up a webmail for email feedback from residents, which can be added to the survey as an alternate means for communication to the Committee. If a webmail account is authorized by the town, designated members from the Team can access to manage responses.
- Carrie will investigate the possibility of having a University of Maine "studies" intern assist with the survey process.

Discovery/Research:

- Bill sent an email to the Team with feedback on Kris' draft ordinance. Email handout given to team.

- Carrie provided an ordinance from Readfield Maine that was used as a subset for Kris' draft ordinance.
- Carrie provided a collection of MMA guidelines and State documents on Solar programs. Bill Nunan volunteered to review the guidelines/documentation provided and will synthesize and present findings regarding what should be utilized in the Town ordinance. The Readfield ordinance is simple and could better serve as a working draft to embed MMA/local standards that would apply to Jonesport.
- Carrie provided info from Elaine Abbott on solar grants. Currently grants are only offered to towns with landfills. There are federal incentives for residents through tax rebates.
- Categorization of the ordinance - residential vs commercial ? Residential is current focus. Commercial ordinance needed? To be determined at a later date.
- Al provided two documents to the team today July 29th, 1) Model Site Plan Regulations and 2) Municipal Solar Best Practices. Both in PDF format. Please review and plan to provide feedback at our next session.
- The team talked about energy storage, decommissioning, solar farms and state minimum standards. As technology evolves, storage technology may change. What are best solutions?
- Al to possibly have Chimbro exec speak at a future meeting.
- Bill suggested cross-referencing solar ordinances with viable examples in Maine. Research other towns to see what they are doing....?

Meeting schedule:

- Our next meeting will be held on August 4th at 5PM at the Town Office.
Future meeting schedule:
August 11th at 5PM

Project Tasks/Timelines:

- **Establish meeting schedule – weekly plan/hold first meeting – 7/7/22**
- **Review examples of Solar Ordinances (draft by Kris K, other towns, MMA guidelines) – 7/7/22, 7/28/22**
- **Discovery**
 - collect solar energy data needed to establish standards/guidelines for consideration, establish questions for Survey mailing. 7/21 - ongoing
 - Conduct Survey of Public re: Solar Power via Newspaper, Local Postings, Saturation Mailing, Webmail feedback, handouts at town office, public info sessions, etc.
 - Analyze feedback and Compile Survey Results
 - Input results into ordinance standards – 1st draft
- **Obtain feedback/review from PB/Legal - 2nd draft**
- **Incorporate legal/PB feedback – 3rd draft**
- **Hold public hearing and incorporate needed adjustments based on public review – Final Draft**
- **Request Selectboard addition of Solar ordinance on town meeting warrant**
- **Ratify developed ordinance through Town Vote by Jan 8, 2023**

Note, the project tasks/guidelines will be adjusted to include tasks as necessary throughout the ordinance writing process. Bear in mind this is not a finalized list of tasks. It is to be used as a guideline to keep track of milestones met and goals for completion.