

**Town of North Yarmouth
Solar Research Committee
Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 11, 2021
REMOTE BUSINESS MEETING**

Call to Order – Byron Kern, Kelly Walker, Chris Byers, and Andy Walsh. Executive Assistant, Draven Walker, was also present. Selectperson Harrell became present at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – Chairperson Kern went over the meeting minutes for December 14, 2020. There was a consensus by the Board that the minutes reflected the events and discussion of December 14, 2020.

Old Business:

Discuss additional solar farm sites – Chairperson Kern asked Chris Byers if any land has been a possibility for development for a solar farm that is owned by the Yarmouth Water District. Chris Byers responded that there are no land options that are owned by the town. The Executive Assistant, Draven Walker, suggested that the committee look into a checklist that town staff could use to determine potential properties that could be developable for solar models. The Executive Assistant also asked the committee if it was possible to get a map on three phase power in North Yarmouth. Chris Byers answered in that affirmative. Chris Byers described five (5) attributes needed for solar farm development:

- Proximity to three-phased power
- Acreage (10-20 acres)
- Lack of Natural Resources (corrected to Jurisdictional Natural Resources/No Wetlands, Streams, or Vernal Pools)
- Limited Impact to Wildlife
- Terrain/Topography

Chris Byers showed a map of Plant and Animal Habitats. Andy Walsh asked Chris Byers if the Gravel Pit (Map 7 Lot 93) was looked at in his original study. Chris Byers asked if the pit was functional. Andy Walsh answered that the pit was not and was currently being filled in. Chairperson Kern mentioned that an action item for the group would be to create a slide on the criteria discussed for the committee's presentation. Chris Byers also mentioned the amount of availability to have the resources to host solar in North Yarmouth is also limited to two sizable projects and that the Yarmouth Water District property is another opportunity for the town to receive beneficiary payments from the developer.

The Executive Assistant brought up questions regarding legislative action that could be needed to conduct solar in North Yarmouth. Chris Byers stated that slides and information presented to the Planning Board may be helpful to determine that. Chris Byers stated that the presentation should be done for the Select Board and the Planning Board. Andy Walsh stated that a checklist of questions may be highly useful for the Planning Board to consider solar projects. The Executive Assistant mentioned that the Land Use Ordinance may be a place to adopt that checklist; the codification, as Chairperson Kern stated, could be a solution to survive turnover of people. Mr. Walsh added that other considerations could be included in this checklist. Kelly Walker inquired about the scope of the committee and how the committee should proceed in terms of focusing on policy recommendations to the Planning Board. Kelly Walker asked if the committee should recommend an ordinance or rule to develop solar as, she mentioned, that could provide restraints that could be harmful to the town. Chris Byers proposed that the committee focus on giving the Planning Board the tools to ask the right questions to any developer who wants to develop a solar project in North Yarmouth. The committee agreed that a checklist to assist the Planning Board in their assessment may be the best option for controlling how solar projects should be developed in North Yarmouth.

Educational Outreach – FAQ – Chairperson Kern stated that the committee should take the document share by Chris Byers, "Solar Project Background" published by Boyle Associates, and use it as a resource for developing the committee's FAQ's. Andy Walsh explained that he believed that when writing the FAQ's, the committee should consider the audience of FAQ's; how individuals could participate in solar opportunities. Andy Walsh mentioned three possible topics that could be addressed:

- Investments for possible long-term usage
- Leasing opportunities (eventually purchase)
- Subscription

Kelly Walker stated that residents who are interested may not want specific information but will put the time to research the information themselves.

The committee spoke about providing resources to the townspeople to help them understand the options they have to acquire solar energy.

New Business –

Deliverables - Chairperson Kern stated that he wanted to know what the finished product will be from the committee. Chairperson Kern then offered to suggested some deliverables to be presented to the committee. The committee decided to develop a framework to have the committee review and add to.

Any Other Business –

Review Meeting Schedule for January – The committee agreed to meeting January 18, 2021.

Adjournment - Chairperson Kern moved to adjourn.

This meeting was held on Zoom
Prepared By: Draven Walker
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary