

**Town of North Yarmouth  
Solar Research Committee  
Meeting Minutes of Friday, February 5, 2021  
REMOTE MEETING**

**Call to Order** – Byron Kern, Chris Byers, Andy Walsh, Jay Fulton, and Kelly Walker were present. The Town Manager's Executive Assistant, Draven Walker, was also present. Chairperson Kern called the meeting to order.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)** – Chairperson Kern summarized the events of the last meeting. No minutes were presented.

**Old Business:**

**Solar Research Committee Presentation:**

Top 5 Criteria – Chairperson Kern suggested that the audience of presentation be referenced to the appendix to view links for more information. The Executive Assistant suggested that the acronym "NWI" be spelt out – National Wetlands Inventory. The Executive Assistant suggested that three-phase-power be defined during the presentation - Chris Byers expressed that the topic was not relevant to the presentation. Chairperson Kern asked who the audience was for the presentation. The audience, Chris Byers mentioned, will not be concerned with the specific details of three-phase-power.

Yarmouth Water District Slide – Andy Walsh asked Chris Byers to add further discussion that was had between them and the Yarmouth Water District on February 2, 2021. The Executive Assistant asked Andy Walsh if the Yarmouth Water District would ever potentially collaborate with the town on a solar project or if the Yarmouth Water District would be the only organization involved. Andy Walsh stated that the Yarmouth Water District could be interested in collaboration. The Executive Assistant asked if the Solar Research Committee would be interested in researching more about what collaborating with the Yarmouth Water District would look like for the town. Chairperson Kern responded that a discussion could go beyond the scope of the committee. Furthermore, Chris Byers explained that a discussion on solar between the Town and the Yarmouth Water District will come organically, i.e., legal. The Executive Assistant asked if the committee explored more properties owned by the Yarmouth Water District that could be developable for solar. Andy Walsh, committee member and Water District Trustee, stated that presenting YWD sites may not be favorable as the property is private and not town owned, but the committee could present possible benefits to the Select Board.

Permitting Recommendations – Andy Walsh stated that he did not want an ordinance similar to what South Portland has on solar regulation. Chairperson Kern stated that the committee's finding was not having a detailed ordinance on solar power. Chris Byers states that a solar ordinance could regulate residential use but did not recommend it. Jay Fulton asked if there could be tax assessed on solar panels. Chris Byers stated that the committee should not recommend taxation on solar projects for the purpose of endorsing solar development in town. Chris Byers stated that taxation should not be encouraged in North Yarmouth. The Executive Assistant summarized the discussions had on permitting recommendations. Chris Byers added a "checklist of questions and deliverables that the planning board can ask of solar developer applicants."

Community Education – Chris Byers summarized the slide. The Executive Assistant suggested a forum. The Executive Assistant mentioned other resources the committee could use for community education. Chris Byers stated that a series that's well moderated could be eventful for community members. Chris Byers stated that events open to the community could be done via Zoom which could be well attended. Jay Fulton mentioned that a discussion at a community education series on the history of the Wescustogo Hall & North Yarmouth Community Center and its solar panels would be appropriate.

The Executive Assistant mentioned a project underway by the Cumberland County Commissioners. An RFP was being advertised, but the Executive Assistant mentioned that it may not have potential for North Yarmouth.

**New Business** – none.

**Any Other Business:**

**Next Meeting** – It was suggested to have the next meeting on February 18, 2021. By consensus, the committee agreed.

**Adjournment** - Chairperson Kern moved to adjourn.

Prepared By: Draven Walker  
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary