

Town of Blandford
Planning Board Meeting

February 6, 2019

Present: Rick Barnard, Sharon Barnard, Julie Mueller, Sarah Simpson

Call to Order: Rick Barnard, Chair

OPEN MEETING –7:00 PM

Julie motioned to accept 1/2/19 meeting minutes. Sharon seconded. Voted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

PB training March 16, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS

DG Solar (John Thomas-SWCA, Joe Hamel-George Millard Solar) Rick asked Joe to provide a letter stating that the project has changed supporting a new application. Rick also asked Mike to bill the two projects separately. Joe advised will submit as George Millard Solar1 and George Millard Solar 2.

John Thomas of SWCA presented new project plans. Total project will produce 4.5 Mw AC and 5.2 Mw DC. Array will be separated instead of one field. Eric asked if batteries were for storage, Joe confirmed it is for energy shift to maximize useful production of energy.

Kevin McCaffrey of SWCA went into more detail of easement and drainage. Proposal is different due to racking and array system. This field will have A frame structures instead. A weed control fabric is laid down under the structure to prevent vegetation and drainage. There will be potential for large runoff due to weed control fabric, so basins are larger.

Rick and Conservation asked about runoff to the North. Kevin advised that there will need to be strategy for erosion and runoff. Kevin also advised that EPA requirements will mandate periodic inspections and if needed, additional measures will be taken.

Eric asked about the weed control fabric to confirm if it has been used in New England. Joe advised that he knows of one location that has used in NE.

Rick mentioned lower panel height and snow accumulation. Joe advised that it is a concern for them but something that they have taken into consideration, and is designed to maximize production.

Rick asked if plans are going to change again. Joe advised no, had to redesign due to setbacks, variances and wetland restrictions.

Sharon stated that she would like statement from the vendor of the weed control fabric that this product has been used in New England.

Discussion ensued regarding the abutters list. List was provided by assessors office.

Meeting with heads of departments scheduled for 2/13/19.

Mike asked questions about easement and authorization. Mike suggested that there be a written authorization in regard to crossing easements. Documentation will be provided.

Eric asked about how the site will be physically monitored. John advised that there will be required reporting and can provide copies of reports. Board will make it a condition of the approval that site inspection reports be provided to the Board. Inspections are done every 6 months and will provide inspection reporting for up to two years.

Eric asked what happens if grass grows through fabric? Joe advised that it should not. Discussion ensued in regard to invasive grass.

Rick asked about deposit from Joe. Joe advised he submitted request for W9 and will be submitting \$10,000 fee once approved.

Mike wanted to address his findings.

- Grading for access road needs to be graded lower
- Public outreach program. Eric will confirm what is required and advise the Board.
- Legal documents to allow the town to decommission the site. Joe advised can list Town as additional insured on Bond.
- Visual impact: must not be visible from public access. Joe advised that he has not received any notification of impact.
- No topsoil to be removed from the land (able to be reused)
- Location boundaries with all abutters names displayed
- Peak usage traffic plan requirement will be requested to be waived
- Basins need to drain within 72 hours
- George Millard Road itself, will any improvements need to be made?
- Traffic control plan should be required for development stage
- Need to determine staging area for construction

Rick asked Joe that he sent an invoice for additional hearings and consultation to Beta Group and it was forwarded to Joe. Joe did not receive. Rick provided a copy to Joe.

After much discussion, it was proposed to approve the Village Center as an expanded business district as presented February 6, 2019. Sharon seconded. Voted unanimously.

Rick motioned to vote to approve the marijuana bylaws as written dated November 2018 assuming it has been reviewed by town counsel. Sarah seconded. Voted unanimously

Sarah moved to adjourn hearing. Sharon seconded. Voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Simpson, Secretary