

**TOWN OF WEBSTER**  
**SOLAR PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021**

The Solar Project Subcommittee held a virtual meeting on Tuesday January 26, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

**Subcommittee members present:** David Hemenway (Chairperson), Craig Fournier, Martin Bender, Daniel Nudd.

**Also, present:** Christine Schadler (Selectwoman), Dana Hadley (Town Administrator), Russell Tatro (Land Use Coordinator), Dan White.

Chairperson Hemenway opened the January 26, 2021 Solar Project Subcommittee meeting at 7:05pm.

The first item on the agenda was whether the Committee should record their meetings on YouTube.

Chairperson Hemenway informed the Committee that the Town had created a YouTube account. He expressed his interest in livestreaming future meeting to promote transparency, record keeping, and making the meeting more accessible to the public. Selectwoman Schadler asked if the public could comment on the meetings. Chairperson Hemenway explained that the comments could be turned on or off and if they were on it would require monitoring. The Board discussed live streaming and agreed it was a good idea.

**MOTION:** David Hemenway

*To approve the use of YouTube to livestream and post meeting recordings going forward.*

**SECOND:** Craig Fournier

**CRAIG FOURNIER – YES**

**MARTIN BENDER – YES**

**DANIEL NUDD - YES**

**The motion passed 4 to 0**

Chairperson Hemenway asked Selectwoman Schadler if she was in attendance to be the conservation commission representative. She responded that she was not, but she was just an interested member and had a comment she wanted to make later.

At this point the meeting began livestreaming.

Chairperson Hemenway moved on the next item on the agenda, approval of draft minutes from 11/24/20 and 12/22/20.

**MOTION:** David Hemenway

*To approve the meeting minutes from 11/24/20 as written.*

**SECOND:** Martin Bender

**CRAIG FOURNIER – YES**

**MARTIN BENDER – YES**

**DANIEL NUDD - YES**

**The motion passed 4 to 0**

**MOTION:** David Hemenway

*To approve the meeting minutes from 12/22/20 as amended.*

**SECOND:** Daniel Nudd

1 **CRAIG FOURNIER – YES**

2 **MARTIN BENDER – YES**

3 **DANIEL NUDD - YES**

4 **The motion passed 4 to 0**

5  
6 Chairperson Hemenway moved onto the next item on the agenda, the MOU reports from Boards and  
7 Committees.

8  
9 Chairperson Hemenway, as the ex officio member of the Select Board on the Planning Board, gave the  
10 Planning Board update. He stated the Planning Board was preparing to be involved with the MOU  
11 preparation. The Planning Board was awaiting detailed maps before it could begin its work.

12  
13 Martin Bender, as the representative from the Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA), stated had not gotten  
14 a response from the ZBA yet.

15  
16 Chairperson Hemenway stated the Energy Committee was interested in reviewing the MOU as it develops  
17 and was researching aggregate power.

18  
19 Selectwoman Schadler, as the ex officio member of the Select Board on the Conservation Commission,  
20 gave the Conservation Commission update. The Commission was still waiting for maps. They needed the  
21 information to identify the areas of impact. She told the board that a resident had offered their land for  
22 purchase to be used as mitigation. The land had ample water frontage and would be perfect for  
23 conservation. Olivewood Energy had also agreed to pay for the Town's legal expenses and wetland  
24 consultant.

25  
26 Chairperson Hemenway stated he wanted to make sure the Town had a written agreement with  
27 Olivewood Energy stating they would pay for the expenses of the attorney and wetland consultant. He  
28 also wanted Olivewood Energy to pay for an economic impact study. Craig Fournier asked what the study  
29 would cover. Chairperson Hemenway stated it would cover topics like tax impacts, job impact, and Town  
30 finance impacts. The Board discussed the timeline to receive information from Olivewood Energy and the  
31 effect it was having on the MOU process. The Board agreed that the MOU process would be on hold until  
32 they had more information.

33  
34 Chairperson Hemenway moved onto the use of herbicides and pesticides.

35  
36 Chairperson Hemenway reminded the Committee of the discussion had last meeting regarding the use of  
37 herbicides and pesticides as a last resort. The Board thought there may be extreme events where the use  
38 would be warranted such as a destructive invasive species. The Committee discussed the possibility and  
39 how best to plan for such events in the future. The Committee tentatively agreed that the Select Board by  
40 a majority vote could override the ban if needed.

41  
42 Chairperson Hemenway commented about substation sound expectations. This was another topic the  
43 Committee was waiting for more information from Olivewood Energies. The Committee expected that  
44 this would need to be addressed in the MOU.

45  
46 Chairperson Hemenway asked for an update from Administrator Hadley about the information on  
47 Fitzwilliam Project. He responded that he had requested the information, but the Town of Fitzwilliam was  
48 still putting together the information.

49  
50 Chairperson Hemenway opened the floor to Public Comment.

1  
2 Daniel White, resident of Deer Meadow Road, stated that he had not been approached by the Town about  
3 the project. He asked if he needed to continue being proactive and attend every board meeting or would  
4 Town officials reach out to him with updates in the future. Chairperson Hemenway responded that the  
5 process was delayed because they had not received the plans from Olivewood Energy and therefore, they  
6 did not know what the impacts would be. Once the Committee received the plans, they planned to notify  
7 the abutters. Selectwoman Schadler stated that Olivewood Energy had stated at the Public Hearing that  
8 they would be approaching each of the abutters. She was unsure when this would happen. Mr. White  
9 wanted to make sure the needs of the abutters were being addressed in this process. Chairperson  
10 Hemenway stated abutter feedback was valuable to the committee and would be used to create the MOU.  
11 Selectwoman Schadler stated that she would reach out to Mr. White and they could discuss his concerns  
12 further.

13  
14 Craig Fournier commented that he had received information about a class on solar project easements. He  
15 would forward the information to Administrator Hadley to distribute.

16  
17 Chairperson Hemenway commented that there had been rumors of another solar project. Land Use  
18 Coordinator Tatro stated he had received a call from a company interested in leasing the hunting preserve  
19 in Pillsbury Lake. He commented that this was unlikely to happen because the land was a preserve.  
20 Chairperson Hemenway thought this emphasized why the Committees work was important.

21  
22 Chairperson Hemenway stated that he had been looking into growing crops around the solar panels. The  
23 Committee agreed this was worth discussing further in the future.

24  
25 Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, scheduling the next meeting.

26  
27 The Committee discussed the various Board/Committee meeting dates. Chairperson Hemenway  
28 suggested February 23, 2021 at 7:00pm. The Committee agreed that the date would work.

29  
30 **MOTION:** David Hemenway  
31 ***To adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm***

32 **SECOND:** Daniel Nudd

33 **DAVID HEMENWAY - YES**

34 **CRAIG FOURNIER – YES**

35 **MARTIN BENDER – YES**

36 **DANIEL NUDD - YES**

37 **The motion passed 4 to 0**

38  
39 The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm

40 *Minutes taken by Russell Tatro*