

## **WAREHAM SOLAR BY-LAW STUDY COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

**Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87487189994>**

**Meeting ID: 874 8718 9994**

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by the Chair.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Members present Nancy McHale, Jacqui Nichols, Jim Eacobacci, Ron Besse and Denise Wolk along with Town Planner Ken Buckland

### **3. ZBA MEMBER APPOINTMENT UPDATE**

Presumption that Mr. Eacobacci is ZBA representative as he has been attending meetings.

### **4. MINUTES – hold**

None available to review today; in absence of Clerk Carl Schulz, Denise Wolk agreed to take minutes. No one objected & Committee thanked her for her offer.

### **5. GOOGLE DOCS – REVISIONS**

#### **a. Discussion of Content:**

The group agreed that we need no further revisions to the documents that were agreed to during our last meeting on 3/2/22

#### **Additional comments, questions, concerns**

Committee reviewed the draft warrant and agreed that it looks good to go w/the rest of the documents (590, 320, 16) to the BOS to post for town meeting

Save 3/28/22 for planning board public hearing presentation.

Motion made to accept by Ron; Jacqui seconded

Voted: Ron, Jacqui, DW, Nancy, Jim (4-0)

#### **b. The need for public outreach/education**

- Denise: advocates for creating a couple of easy-to-understand PR pieces that can be distributed via website, as a flyer, etc. to build understanding of what the bylaw is, is not, and why it is important to pass. DW will create a graphic organizer type flyer and get a draft out to the committee before our next meeting
- Ron: if we have the content available he can do the design for us 😊. He will embed hyperlinks for web-based postings as well. The product should be graphically oriented, include maps/illustration to show what the restrictions are
- Nancy: anything that we want to hand out or display at town meeting has to be approved by the moderator in advance (2 weeks before meeting)
- Denise: Can we ask the Wareham Land Trust and other environmental groups to endorse the bylaw? Planning board? Conservation board? What other orgs/boards can we ask to support it?
- Nancy: we should send a letter to the editor of Wareham Week from the solar bylaw committee as a whole (so we all sign on). Wareham Week and Wicked Local (Nancy has the contact info). 250 word limit for LTE – DW volunteers to write first draft and send to Nancy by Fri 3/11
- Nancy: one challenge will have is the competing push for a moratorium on solar (stop it altogether) at regular spring town meeting so we need to make sure to differentiate what we're proposing from that, and show how/why this is a better solution. Would AG even allow a moratorium? Yes, they can but they are only for a year to 15 months, so not a permanent fix. The group discussed the possibilities and logistics of getting a 2/3 vote on either or both (moratorium vs new bylaw) – and the possibility of both passing – the regular and special town meeting but our bylaw would be presented and voted on before the moratorium is voted on (Annie Hayes is the person who is leading that effort).
- Nancy: State municipal log has still not shown any action on the 6/21 bylaw nor has the SJC
- Can local farming community endorse/support? Ask Linda R if she can do that
- Can Ron share w/conservation commission to ask for their support? They are concerned about size of solar farms, tree cutting, and other conservation issues – he would be surprised if they don't support it but they need to see it as a whole to make that determination.

- Nancy: We all need to be ready and able to stand up at town meeting to support our work and give brief statements. She would do the 5 minute overview intro, but each of us can give a 2 minute presentation about some piece of it (e.g. Jacqui does finance, Ron does conservation, Carl does planning board, Linda on farmers, Jim on benefits of solar, Denise on importance of energy independence/geopolitical oil dependency etc.) and as a committee we can plan that out at the meeting before the vote. We should be sure to scatter our individual comments so that we're not all bunched in together.

## **6. Recommendation to BOS re Alternative/Renewable Energy Committee**

Overview of BOS meeting last night. In Nancy's report last night, she recommended that the BOS form a standing committee, and they asked us to submit something more in writing so they can put it in their meeting next week. Would Solar Committee be willing to shepherd that forward to a warrant on the town meeting? Ron said he is interested in that. Jacqui agrees – that is something we have been thinking about all along. What Nancy included in our status report to BOS last night is just the right tone. See below for text of Status report presented to BOS on 3/8/22.

## **7. Review of Solar Work-plan Timeline**

### **a. BOS Status Report**

### **SOLAR BYLAW STUDY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT TO WAREHAM BOARD OF SELECTMAN MARCH 8, 2022**

*Madam Chair and Members of the Select Board,*

*Thank you for this opportunity to present a status report on the work of the Wareham Solar Bylaw Study Committee.*

*Starting in August of 2021, the committee, made up of seven Wareham citizens with diverse backgrounds, met two times a month. Since December, the committee has met weekly to fulfill our task of presenting an updated solar bylaw to the Spring Town Meeting. The committee had a steep learning curve and reviewed a sizable amount of research and information as well as receiving input from industry experts and local citizens. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we held a very well attended public meeting where we heard from multiple constituent groups. We used their varied input to inform our work.*

*The committee is proposing a new zoning bylaw, Article 5 Section 590, which is intended to replace the existing Section 590. Also included are the associated and necessary changes to Article 3 Section 320 of the Use Table and Article 16 Definitions.*

*These documents and the Warrant Article are ready to be submitted to the BOS office and the Town Clerk for inclusion on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant.*

*The Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing for March 28<sup>th</sup> for this and other zoning articles. We look forward to discussing this proposed bylaw with you at a time that is convenient for you.*

*Additionally, during the course of our work, our committee has come to recognize the need for Wareham to develop a much more robust and comprehensive renewable energy strategy. There are many alternative energy options and new technologies are emerging constantly. We recommend that the BOS consider forming a standing committee on renewable energy. The intent is for them, in conjunction with industry leaders, environmental stewards, and town leaders, to meet periodically and shape a course of action that anticipates and meets our emerging energy needs while protecting our community and environment.*

*Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Mr. Buckland, the entire Planning Department, and the IT Department for their assistance and patience throughout the process. Thank you for affording us the opportunity to serve the Town in this capacity.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nancy McHale*

*Chair*

*Wareham Solar Bylaw Study Committee*

**b. Submission to Planning Board for public hearing.** Submit to Town Clerk 3/10/22 to publish for public hearing 3/28

Warrant opens 3/18; 3/28 last day to submit articles; 3/29 close warrant

Nancy will submit everything tomorrow (3/10) to Town Clerk for inclusion in publication for PB and on 3/21/22 to the BOS for STM warrant.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS**

None

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **10. NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022 AT 4:00PM VIA ZOOM**

## **11. ADJOURN**

**Motion made & seconded to adjourn at 5:18 pm**

**Unanimous 4-0-0**

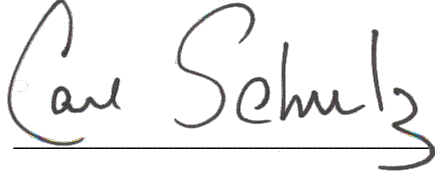
**Respectfully submitted by Denise Wolk**

**3/16/22**

***Date Submitted***

***By Carl Schulz, Apr 17, 2022 at 09:56***

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "C" and a long, trailing "z".

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk Wareham Solar Study Committee

***Date Signed***

***By Carl Schulz, Apr 17, 2022 at 09:56***

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_