

WAREHAM SOLAR BY-LAW STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

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

Meeting ID: 874 8718 9994

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER at 4:04 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Jacqui Nichols, Nancy McHale, Ron Besse, Jim Eacobacci, Denise Wolk & Ken Buckland

3. ZBA MEMBER – Vote on recommendation to BOS

Move that we recommend Jim Eacobacci as ZBA member of this committee

Moved by Ron, second by Jacqui: vote was 4-0-0 to recommend him to BOS

4. MINUTES – 2/23/22; 3/2/22; 3/9/22 – table to next week

5. PUBLIC OUTREACH/EDUCATION

a. 3/28 in person PB Public Hearing presentation/ Finance Committee date TBD

b. 4/25 STM presentation

c. Handouts/poster board

Committee reviewed copy that Denise and Nancy drafted. We made some tweaks together. Denise will work with Ron to embed links and identify photos that he will use to create a layout for both electronic distribution and a printed flyer. We discussed the cost/benefit of printing handouts for town meeting in color.

For the poster board/large scale prints, we should have a copy of the BioMap2 maps so that people can see it – visualize the areas. Ron said he can do that if Ken sends him links to the maps (Ken will do, Denise will help Ron with anything he can).

d. letters to newspapers

The committee reviewed, revised the draft letter to Editors. Nancy will submit it to Wareham Week and Wicked Local on behalf of the full committee

e. social media

The full text of the proposed bylaw needs to be posted to the planning board section of the town website – it has not yet been posted. It should also go to the solar energy page. Ken will check into it.

Some discussion on further social media engagement but decided to intentionally not post to social media due to general lack of interest in engaging in this manner.

The planning board meeting for 3/28 was published in Wareham Week. Finance Committee & BOS will schedule hearings as well.

Citizen's petition on moratorium on solar – the committee discussed the competing proposal and whether it is a danger to our work. As written, it proposes a 15 month pause (to 6/30/23) on all solar development. Proponents want the town to have time to conduct a study before any further solar development. What would happen if both passed at town meeting? We don't know what the state is going to come down with on solar. We also don't know what will happen if both pass...it could do the 15 months pause first, then implement the solar bylaw we wrote. We discussed the importance of standing up at special town meeting to advocate for passing the new bylaw since our article will be heard before the moratorium petition. Both articles need 2/3 vote to pass.

6. RECOMMENDATION OF ALTERNATIVE/RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

The BOS did not support establishing a standing committee for renewable energy. We can make the recommendation, but it won't make the regular town meeting warrant as a citizen petition. We would have to get 100 signatures to put it on the warrant for special meeting. We would have to collect them and submit the warrant proposal by 3/28/22.

Ron thinks we can get it done but there's a lot to do in a short timeframe. Jacqui is concerned that it doesn't have the support (would be problematic). If we go forward and try to do it there is no guarantee the BOS would convene it or support it. Nancy said that we should focus our attention on passing this bylaw and consider reapproaching the BOS after the town elections and possibly submit a citizen's petition on renewable energy committee for fall town meeting. We all agreed to wait. It's also possible that it could become a subcommittee of the planning board.

7. Warrant Article Submitted to Town Clerk 3/10/22 for Planning Board public hearing 3/28

Nancy will submit in Word to BOS & Moderator 3/21/22;

(3/28 last day to submit articles; 3/29 warrant closes)

We need to be ready to present at the planning board meeting on 3/28 (basically the same presentation we will make to the full town meeting). Planning board will have to make a recommendation to BOS as a result of that meeting.

8. OPEN MEETING LAW REMINDER

Just a reminder that all need to ensure that we're compliant with the conflict of interest documents/agreements. Reminder that group conversations must be within the parameters of regular meetings.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS - none

10. NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022 AT 4:00PM VIA ZOOM

11. ADJOURN –

Ron moved, Jacqui seconded adjournment at 5:30 pm

Vote: 5-0-0

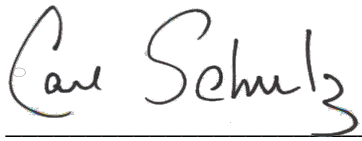
Respectfully submitted

Denise Wolk

Date Signed

By Carl Schulz, Apr 27, 2022 at 10:01

Date signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "C" and "S".

Attest: _____

Clerk Wareham Solar Study Committee

Date Submitted

By Carl Schulz, Apr 27, 2022 at 10:01

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: _____