

Wareham Solar By-Law Study Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 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 by Chairperson McHale at 4:11 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Nancy McHale (Chairperson)
Carl Schulz (Clerk)
Denise Wolk
Jacqui Nichols
Ronald Besse, ConCom rep

Members Absent: Jim Eacobacci, ZBA rep

Also present: Ken Buckland, Director of Planning
Tricia Wurts

3. MINUTES TO APPROVE

Status of the outstanding minutes was reviewed.

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to approve:

Minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting as amended to correct heading
Motion passed (5-0-0)

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to approve:

Minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting as amended to correct heading
Motion passed (5-0-0)

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to approve:

Minutes of the March 30, 2022 meeting
Motion passed (5-0-0)

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to approve:

Minutes of the April 5, 2022 meeting as amended to correct heading

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Motion passed (5-0-0)

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to approve:

Minutes of the April 6, 2022 meeting as amended to correct heading and wording regarding “habitat”

Motion passed (5-0-0)

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to approve:

Minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting as amended to note that Mr. Besse left early to attend Conservation Commission meeting

Motion passed (5-0-0)

4. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Committee discussed what happens to the Committee after Town meeting. The wording of our “charter” states that we are done after the Town meeting. It was felt that, should the by-law pass, that there would be a need for possible action should the AG have questions. At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that we could act through the Planning Office as needed without requiring an official re-charter.

5. PUBLIC OUTREACH / EDUCATION

The Committee discussed the material that the Clerk needs to include in a by-law submission that Chairperson McHale had forward via email. Chairperson McHale agreed to follow-up with the Town Clerk after Town Meeting as needed to ensure that all materials related to the by-law were made available.

Discussion moved on to the presentation to Town Meeting.

- The Power Point presentation and supporting materials have been received by Town Moderator.
- Confirmation of use of the Poster Board,
- Denise will work on finishing the Poster Board that Ron had started,
- Chairperson McHale to send out final versions of the material,
- Ms. McHale, Mr. Besse, and Ms. Wolk agreed to print copies of materials for Town Meeting,

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The Committee reviewed the spreadsheet summarizing the existing and planned solar projects. The Committee noted that the Town has not historically tracked this data in a formal way. Corrections to some of the sizing numbers were made. The final estimated total area under the arrays is estimated at 700 acres.

The Committee then discussed how and if it was necessary to respond to an opinion piece that was printed in Wareham Week supporting BOTH solar articles. The concern was that the wording of the MORATORIUM by-law as posted on the Clerk and FinCom pages included the rescinding of SECTION 590. The Committee worked on a DRAFT response that pointed out the issues / conflicts between Article 19 and Article S15. It was agreed to work on the DRAFT wording prepared by Mr. Schulz overnight in order to produce a clear statement. The final to be sent on Thursday April 21.

(Note: before the response was forward to Wareham Week the Town Moderator confirmed that the wording as posted was not correct. Article 19 no longer contains the language to rescind Section 590. Therefore, the letter was not sent.)

The Committee discussed the wording provided that Mr. Buckland provided via email as language we could use when discussing how the restrictions proposed in the by-law work to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Town:

“The Committee notes that 17 of the 29 projects currently in town are equal to or less than 5MW, and there is no restriction against multiple projects in any of the allowed locations. The 5 MW limitation provides more buffering between project sites thereby reducing the greater visual impact, increased glare and increased noise associated with larger facilities, thus reducing the impacts to neighbors' health, welfare, and property values, which have been identified in the testimony submitted during the public hearings on the projects the town has already reviewed. This also meets the stated goals and policies of the Wareham Master Plan Update to diversify the land uses so that the town grows in a planned mix of commercial, industrial, institutional and residential land uses, that allows alternative energy systems as part of the mix, especially solar.”

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wurts noted the confusion that existed because the wording of Article 19 was unclear and thanked the Committee for its work.

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7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed (5-0-0)

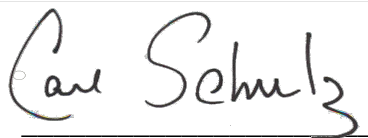
8. **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: **Wareham High School**

Date signed: _____

Date Signed
By Carl Schulz, Apr 27, 2022 at 11:01

Attest: _____



Clerk Wareham Solar Study Committee

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: _____

Date Submitted
By Carl Schulz, Apr 27, 2022 at 11:01