

South Hadley Fire District No. 2

Elmer Brook Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2018

Meeting Time Start: 5:00 pm

-Attendance:

Jim Menard, Frank DeToma, & Bill Selkirk

-Others present:

Mary Beth O'Meara

The meeting was called to order by Jim Menard @ 5pm.

We approved the minutes of the August 27th sub-committee meeting and the Sept. 5th sub-committee meeting with SHELD.

We discussed our September 5th meeting with SHELD. At the meeting we learned that SHELD has sufficient power from its contracted nuclear sources for most of its needs. Because the demand for electric power is so time variable, however, SHELD would be interested in having one or two additional megawatts available for peak demand periods. Furthermore, there is a possibility that the Commonwealth may require electric utilities to purchase at least some of their power from renewable source providers. If the Commonwealth were to institute that requirement, SHELD would certainly be interested in purchasing solar-generated electric power from a District-owned solar array. In view of these uncertainties, the best option for the District may be to do an initial solar installation capable of generation 1-2 megawatts, but with the capacity for later expansion, of up to about 5 megawatts – the estimated maximum that the site could yield.

We then discussed the deeds for the two lots in question – parcels 19 and 20. Parcel 19 is hilly and ecologically sensitive; it could not be developed. The disposition of parcel 19 (keep or sell) should depend upon the future of parcel 20. That parcel – some 35 acres - would be the site of the proposed solar array. If its development is not possible, that would affect the future of parcel 19. There is uncertainty about whether parcel 20 was purchased in order to provide any sort of water resource protection. Bill and Jim have located the deed records for both lots. The deeds do not give any indication that the land was purchased for any such protection.

We discussed the wording in a draft letter to John Scibak. Frank DeToma moved to approve the draft as edited by the sub-committee. Bill Selkirk seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. A copy of that draft letter is attached to these minutes.

Jim reported that through Barbara, he has gotten permission from the Chair of the Prudential Board to go ahead with a conversation about the sub-committee's efforts with attorney O'Toole, who is now counsel for the District. The draft letter to Scibak

will be taken to attorney O'Toole before Jim meets with him, and a copy will be given to Barbara Miller, for disbursement to members of the Prudential Committee, and to Water Superintendent Aiken for their information.

Sub-committee members discussed the possible next steps in the process. They would likely include conversations with the Prudential Board, and Board approval, and if approved, a public information meeting, then approval at a District Meeting, and then going before the Planning Board for its approval.

Sub-committee members agreed to ask to be put on the agenda for the next Prudential Board meeting, on October 16th, in order to discuss the Elmer Brook development prposal.

Jim reported that he has had a preliminary conversation with Todd Bard, a solar field developer. Todd is with the Lee Energy Group, located in Agawam. He is highly regarded by Sean Fitzgerald, of SHELD. We decided to hold off on any further conversations with Todd.

Adjourned: 6:25 PM