

**South Hadley Fire District No. 2**  
**Elmer Brook Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Meeting Time Start: 5:00 pm

**-Attendance:**

Jim Menard and Frank DeToma

-Others present:

Mary Beth O'Meara, Linda Young

The meeting was called to order by Jim Menard @ 5:05pm.

F. DeToma pointed out the need to amend a date in the minutes of the 12/12/18 meeting. He moved to approve the minutes of the 11/1/18 meeting and to approve the amended minutes of the 12/12/18 meeting. Motion was approved.

F. DeToma summarized his meeting with Town Planner Richard Harris. He reported that Richard told him that the lot on which the solar farm would be built is under Natural Heritage protection. J. Menard produced a study of the area commissioned by the Water Department. It indicates that that while the back parcel is protected, most of the front parcel is not.

J. Menard announced that the January 16<sup>th</sup> informational meeting will take place in the Firehouse kitchen room, and move to the Firehouse vehicle parking area if there is a large attendance. He will hand out copies of a solar farm installation "pros and cons" list at the meeting. B. Selkirk will do a slide presentation of the proposed solar farm installation area. Copies of that list were given to M.B. O'Meara and L. Young.

L. Young, a member of the Town's Tree Committee, pointed out that the list of solar farm "cons" did not include the fact that it would be necessary to clear the field of the existing trees. J. Menard pointed out that most of the trees that would be removed were new growth white pines – not the most desirable trees. F. DeToma and J. Menard proposed that a portion of the revenue from the proposed solar farm could be used to supplement the Town's tree-planting budget.

L. Young asked about the height of the proposed solar panels. J. Menard replied that he has visited several solar installations, and estimated that they would not be more than five or six feet high.

The sub-committee will meet again on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5 PM in the Fire Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

F. DeToma

January 10, 2019