

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

Meeting Date: Monday, January 16, 2019

Meeting Time Start: ~~6:00~~ pm

6:00

-Attendance:

Jim Menard, Bill Selkirk, and Frank DeToma

6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Jim Menard @ 6:00pm.

B. Selkirk Motioned to accept the minutes of the January 14th meeting. Motion was approved.

At 7:00 PM the sub-committee members hosted a public informational meeting about possible uses of the District's Elmer Brook property. Bill Selkirk began the meeting with some history about the two properties in question, with a description of their locations. Frank DeToma and Jim Menard presented some illustrations of nearby solar farms. Frank DeToma spoke about the possible revenues that would come to the District from an arrangement that would involve leasing the land to a developer who would in turn install the solar farm. Annual lease revenues might be about \$70K per year, and there may be the chance to provide electricity for the two water pumps – our annual SHEL D bill is about \$50K. Jim Menard answered questions from the audience about solar farm installations. Frank DeToma pointed out that the Town has recently enacted a set of bylaws that govern the installation of solar arrays. An audience member, Joanna Brown, pointed out the need to carefully research the experiences of other municipalities who have had solar farms installed. She said that there have been cases of municipalities suing developers and vise-versa. She felt that the property owners who abut the property should not see their properties lose value.

It was asked if there could be a site walk in the near future.

An audience member asked for a broader consideration of all of the possible uses for the land, including an evaluation of the land's worth, with some estimates of the possible returns from those possible uses.

Jim Menard spoke about how electricity from the solar array might reach consumers.

There was agreement that there should be more than one additional information meeting, and that they should be scheduled as soon as possible.

The informational meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

F. DeToma

February 2, 2019

Approved
w/changes
K. Allen