

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD
Special Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
June 22, 2021

NOTE: Today's Select Board meeting was held by teleconference and all Cornwall meetings will be held by teleconference until further notice.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Magna Dodge, Tanya Byker, Ben Marks, John Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Rich Carpenter, Ian Phair

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by John Roberts, Vice- Chair

QUORUM—established

AGENDA—Magna D. MOVED, Brian K. SECONDED to approve the agenda as modified, with the edition of Brian Kemp's update on Mr. Gardon's complaint and update from Tanya B. regarding audiovisual (AV) equipment. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

NOTE: Ben Marks and Tanya Byker are recusing themselves from voting on the question of a solar investment for the Town of Cornwall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—none

PRESENTATION: ACORN Bristol Project - Rich Carpenter

Rich Carpenter presented information about ACORN Energy Coop and its Bristol Community Solar Array project on the capped landfill in Bristol. ACORN is partnering with Aegis Renewable Energy on this project. This project presents an opportunity to invest in an off-site solar energy project resulting in savings in the cost of electricity at Town buildings, through net metering. Rich C. described the financial and legal structure of the project, types of members, requirements for members, the minimum investments, the subscription process, how to calculate the units a member would need, the deadline for becoming a member, and the timeline for construction.

PRESENTATION: Alternative Solar Proposal - Ian Phair

Ian Phair presented information on another way the Town could invest in solar energy resulting in comparable savings in the cost of electricity at Town buildings, also through net metering, by building a solar array on land that the Town owns. This option would provide financial flexibility, as Mr. Phair would finance the construction of the array. A

project of 15 KW or less would involve a simple permitting process that would take 30 days or less.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON SOLAR PROPOSALS

After lengthy discussions, including data about the cost of doing nothing, questions from the Board and answers from the presenters about both proposals, it was agreed that the Town should invest in solar energy (a goal of the Town Plan) at this time, that the best location for a solar array on Town land would be the land that is adjacent to the school, that public input should be sought at a special Town Meeting, and that a warning for this meeting would be drafted by Magna D., John R., Brian K. and Don Burns (from the Planning Commission).

Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to consider participating in the 15 KW solar array project described by Ian Phair, with the balance of the Town's needs to be purchased from the Bristol Community Solar Project. **Motion passed** - 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (Tanya B. and Ben M.).

Don Burns requested from both presenters that the spreadsheet he prepared with data on these projects, be updated/corrected and returned to him.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Update on Mr. Gardon's Complaint** - Brian K. reported that he has heard again from Mr. Gardon, who does not intend to drop his complaint. Brian K. plans to visit him, to inspect and quantify the harm Mr. Gardon claims was caused by Town highway equipment a few years ago.
- **Update on AV equipment** - Tanya B. presented information on an option for AV equipment, installation and follow up consultation. Town policy requires that a request for proposal (RFP) process for this amount of expense. Tonya B. will draft the RFP.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian K. MOVED/ Magna D. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting until the 29th of June, if needed. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned (to be continued on June 29, if needed) at 9:09 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board