

HEC MEETING MINUTES
10 September 2015
7:00 PM
Town Hall- Selectman's Room

In attendance

Dick Desrosiers

Brian Betts

Special Guests: Chris Jacobs, DPW

Solar City

Sarah Hill – Business development

Daniel Smith - Commercial Sales Engineer

Nate Bell – Project Development Analyst

The purpose of this meeting was to allow Solar City to discuss their proposal for a PV Solar System. Because of the proprietary nature of this discussion, the meeting was not televised to the public. Due to a lack of a quorum of members these minutes will be posted as is on the town website.

Sarah passed out copies of a written presentation which will be delivered to members at the next meeting

Land fill site and system construction

Chris discussed the construction of the land fill starting with its original use as a gravel pit and built up in layers being capped off in 1996. The cap is covered with several feet of sand and the about a foot of loam.

Dan discussed the construction of the system including the use of poured in place concrete block and use of the Game Change Racking system. Dick asked about maintenance of the site such as mowing of the grass. Chris pointed out that the mowing system used was large, the effort time consuming and expensive. Use of gravel or herbicides was discussed but concern expressed about weight and the wild life habituating the area. Concern was also discussed over potential damage to the cells, Chris suggested the use of sheep and Dan brought up the need to complete the fencing. It was decided that Chris would look into this further and make a recommendation.

Concern was expressed about settling over time and Dan indicated that the system has some auto adjustment but they will measure and monitor the settling as well as

operation of the system. Chris asked about periodic inspection of the cells and was assured that this is a part of their responsibility as Solar City owns the system. Dan did indicate if there was some settling, they would move a portion of the array at their expense.

System use and financial considerations

Chris asked about permitting. Sarah pointed out that they are responsible for obtaining all permits

Dick asked about the \$100,000 interconnection fee in the proposal and suggested that that may not be enough. Nate stated that this was sufficient in their experience but they would cost engineer the interconnections with Unitil to keep the cost below the proposal. If for any reason the cost should exceed we will negotiate the difference.

Sarah and Nate suggested that we look at the system somewhat differently. As designed, the system consists of two arrays, they suggest connecting one array to the WWT plant meter and using it solely dedicated to the WWT plant as their consumption was a little more than half the total. They suggested connecting the second array to the Transfer Station meter and using that as a Group Net Metering system with PW acting as the host and serving all of the other town accounts. As this load would mostly be less than the generated amount, this system would qualify for net metering credits. The WWT plant would be subject to the PPA charge plus a demand charge from Unitil thus a savings to the WWT account over the 20 year term.

Brian questioned their financial analysis in particular the grid avoidance cost. With the concept above and a relook at the grid avoidance cost, Solar City will revise their financial analysis. In this regard, Solar City uses a 2% utility escalation rate, on average.

Dick asked about their standing in the industry. Solar City is a publically traded company and is rated number one in terms of sales and experience with very stable financial backing. They have recently opened an office in Manchester which is now employing 40 folks and is expected to grow to 75.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 1 October at 7PM. NHSolar Garden will discuss their proposal