

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

Chinook Solar Project Site Walk Minutes

February 20, 2020

Selectman Present: Chairman Dan Baker, Charley Kenison, and Robyn Bates.

Planning Board Members Present: Chairman Suzanne Gray, Secretary Robin Peard-Blais, and Barbara Young.

SEC Site Evaluation Committee Members Present: Chair Dianne Martin, Pam Monroe, Susan Duprey, Rene Pelletier, Bill Oldenburg, Wil Arvelo, and Mike Iacopino.

Counsel Present: Amy Manzelli (BCM Environmental and Land Law), and Heather Nevel (Counsel for the Public).

Staff Present: Town Administrator Debbie Favreau, and Land Use Coordinator Lori Nolan.

Others Present: Paul Kotila (Conservation Board Chairman), Heath Barefoot (NextEra), Lisa Paul (NextEra), Jon Gravel (NextEra), Yina Sun (NextEra), Dana Valleau (TRC), Nathaniel Morse (Orr/Reno), Doug Patch (Orr/Reno), Joe Persechino (Tighe and Bond), and Tom Kavet (Economist).

At 3:19, Mike Iacopino introduced his team and explained that the purpose of the site walk is not to express any opinions on the project, but to allow for the SEC Committee members to see the site and its progress.

At 3:54, the group arrived at the site for the site walk.

Dana Valleau showed map outlining where the group was in relation to landmarks, specifically Scott Brook, Fitzwilliam Town Hall, and substation. Pam Monroe asked for clarification to the location of Mount Monadnock and the electrical lines/grid. Valleau explained the unplowed logging road will provide access to the substation and the switch yard and National Grid will be adjacent to the substation.

Valleau asked group which areas on the site they would like to visit. Robin Peard-Blais requested to see the location of the solar arrays to the substation and also the distance between the solar arrays and Scott Pond.

Suzanne Gray asked where the closest resident would be to the substation. Valleau explained there are two houses virtually the same distance away, but the closest would be the 1-year-old new construction house.

Iacopino asked what the highest structure on site would be. Valleau explained the lightning rest would most likely be the highest at 55ft, which is lower than the power lines. But the exact information would be contained in the application.

The group then walked to the approximate location of the substation. Wil Arvelo asked how far the setback would be from the logging road to the substation. Valleau explained it would be directly on the other side of the stonewall (approximately 6-10 feet from road).

After group returns to center point on site, the SEC Evaluation Committee determined the walk to the solar arrays to see distance to Scott Pond was not needed. Joe Persechino shared with group that Scott Brook will be over 1,000ft from the closest solar panel.

The group then boarded the bus to return to the Town Hall at 4:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Nolan
Land Use Coordinator

Approved as amended on March 3, 2020