

Deering Solar Committee  
762 Deering Center Road  
Deering, NH 03244  
Minutes for March 26, 2024

**Attendance:** Steve Diers, Rob Cilic, Gary Smith

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order, 6:48 pm.

**Minutes:** No previous minutes as this is the first meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Item 1: Election of Chairperson**

Gary Smith nominates Rob Cilic as Chairperson. Seconded by Steve Diers.  
Accepted by Rob Cilic.

**Item 2:** S. Diers hands out packet of information that he has collected to date for committee members to review. Copies were made of the signed Power Purchase Agreement(PPA) between Revision and the Town.

Mission statement was reviewed and G. Smith recommended modifying the statement to read:

- “up to five members” and that the contract signed date be changed from “January 16, 2020 to December 30, 2019”;

The mission of the committee is to do the following:

- Review the solar agreement contract;
- Conduct a performance review to date of energy invoices;
- Project future costs under the buyout option or to continue with the existing contract;
- List all mitigating information;
- Receive public input;
- Make recommendations to the BOS whether the Town should renew the agreement for an additional 5 years or to exercise the option to purchase;
- Dissolve the committee at the completion of this report.

Eversource Town Hall statement was reviewed for February 2024 along with a Blue Haven (Billing Company for Revision) invoice for the months of April, May and June 2023. S. Diers noted that Town record keeping of Solar invoices, prior

minutes and correspondence is very sparse. Significant effort will be required to piece together and better understand the thought process that led to the development and signing of the December 30, 2019 contract (PPA) with Revision. S. Diers suggested requesting a Revision representative meet with the Committee to discuss the PPA. G. Smith supported the meeting.

**Item 3:** G. Smith presented a summary of the highlights for the December 30, 2019 contract.

### **Preliminary Solar Agreement Observations**

1. 2019 Warrant Article 7 approved a 20-year contract term while the signed contract (PPA) is for 25 years;
2. Article 7 approved an estimated Solar Array purchase amount of \$78,197 in year 6, while the signed contract (PPA) purchase amount for year 6 is \$103,200;
3. Article 8 established a trust fund for the purpose of purchase, maintenance, installation, repair and replacement of the solar panels. S. Dier gave an update on the trust fund amount and will check on the current balance;
4. If the Town elects to purchase the Solar system, it must provide Revision notification of its intent to purchase at least 90 days and not more than 180 days prior to the end of the applicable Contract year or initial term. S. Diers is to inquire with Blue Haven as to what this date is. A potential public hearing and public informational session(s) may be conducted prior to the notification, along with a special town meeting or regular March Town meeting held to seek voter approval for the purchase, if it is the BOS recommendation;
5. It is unclear whether the Town currently pays Revision (Contract Document Pg. 6 Sections 2&5) for **ALL** of the energy generated by the System and not just for the amount the Town uses. The purchase and sales kWh contained within the Eversource statements need to be correlated to the Revision Invoices. S. Diers is to contact Blue Haven for clarification;
6. The Town pays Revision a kWh rate that is higher than the current retail Eversource rate. The rate increases 2% annually while the solar array energy production is derated by 0.5% annually;
7. Town pays Eversource for electrical services in addition to Revisions invoices;

8. If the Town purchases the Solar System, will a new Eversource application be required in order to obtain interconnection approval;
9. If the Town purchases the Solar System, will the excess kWh generated be credited/banked to pay for future power consumption;
10. Revision investors receive all REC and Environmental credits, and potentially Federal Tax credits and State Rebates. At the time of the contract signing in 2019, municipalities were ineligible for Solar Tax credits as they are a tax-exempt entity. Only residential users were eligible for tax credits at that time;
11. If the Town purchases the Solar system a new application to Eversource may be required. Will the Town be available to receive Environmental Attributes and Environmental Incentives if applicable? New 2022 legislation may now allow municipalities to receive a 30% federal grant. The pool of grant funds available for New Hampshire is relatively small and the award of grants are competitive. It is unclear if the Town purchases the existing system, will they be eligible, as the system is already constructed.
12. Town shall (Pg. 7 Section 6) submit to Revision for approval any press releases regarding Revision's use of solar or renewable energy and submit for publication any such releases without the written approval of Seller;
13. In the event that the Town decides to purchase the system, Revision determines the Fair Market Value. If Town objects to the value, both parties shall select a nationally recognized independent appraiser with the costs borne equally by both parties.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Deering Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted: Gary Smith