Town of Princeton Solar Farm Committee (SFC)

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

**Meeting Called to Order at 2:00pm**

**Attendance:**

* *Members present, virtually*: Richard Chase (RC); Bruce Dean (BD); John Mirick (JM); Helga Lyons (HL)
* *Members absent:* Corey Burnham-Howard (CBH)
* *Liaisons present, virtually:* Gerald Pellegrini (GP) of EAC; Lar Greene (LG) of Board of Health; Jennifer Greene (JG) of Advisory Committee
* *Liaisons absent:* Bob Cummings (BC) of Selectboard
* In the absence of CBH (Secretary), HL volunteered to write the minutes for the meeting

**Agenda:**

Members reviewed the agenda – no change.

**Approval of Minutes for meeting dated 11/16/23**.

Motion by RC. Second by BD. Unanimous approval.

**PMLD/SMLD Interconnect Update**

RC reported that SMLD is working with an engineering firm, PLM, to conduct an Interconnection Study. Due to a backlog at PLM, it is expected that it will take another two months before a study can commence. The study should take one month to complete. The cost of such study is paid for by PMLD and SMLD. A grant application for such study was not granted.

**DEP-related Information/Discussions**

HL reported that BD and HL conducted a record search at Town Hall to find the MassDEP Final Permit for the closure of the Easterly Portion of the Landfill as well as the MassDEP Landfill Closure Certification. The complete Final Permit was found; however, the MassDEP Landfill Closure Certification was not found. This confirmed a previous record search at MassDEP by CBH.

The information was shared with Sherry Patch (Town Administrator) to see how to proceed. She contacted Tighe & Bond, who in turn confirmed that they do not have the MassDEP Landfill Closure Certification and offered to request a record search at the engineering firm, Huntley Associates, PC, or alternatively to provide the engineering work to get the certification.

Upon consultation with Sherry Patch, HL completed the Huntley Associates records request form. The request is for the MassDEP Landfill Closure Certification and if such closure certification does not exist, respective documents needed to receive MassDEP closure certification. Sherry signed and submitted the document on 1/18/24. The cost for the record search is $300.

RC re-iterated that he spoke with Jim McQuate (MassDEP representative for Central Region) about a year ago. He confirmed that all records were in place.

* **ACTION:** GP to continue to reach out to Jim McQuade at DEP to substantiate his earlier statement that all documents were in order.

JM confirmed that his firm (prior legal counsel) does not have any records related to the landfill, as all records were transferred to Gary Brackett and subsequently Tom Mullins. JM suggested that a formal letter from the town to the DEP might yield results.

**Other comments:**

LG had distributed the latest landfill monitoring report (dated December 2021) as conducted by Tighe & Bond:

“Groundwater monitoring continues to show minor impacts from the landfill on groundwater

quality, indicated by a slightly acidic pH in monitoring wells DW-3, DW-5 and TW-13, and

arsenic (DW-5), iron (DW-5 and TW-13) and manganese (TW-13) detections”.

HL asked if these levels are acceptable by DEP to allow for the development of a landfill. HL was wondering why surface water was not being tested, since this water is part of the watershed flowing into the Worcester water supply. GP noted that there are many hazardous landfills throughout the countries.

* **ACTION:** LG will follow up with Tighe & Bond to conduct the next bi-annual monitoring tests. He will inquire with Tighe & Bond regarding the test results and surface water testing. He will inquire if any remediation is necessary.

**Administrative Items:**

* The next meeting was set for February 15, 2024 at 2pm, virtually.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned with unanimous consent at 2:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helga Lyons

Attachment: FALL 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SUMMARY REPORT by Tighe & Bond dated December 2021.