

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 4, 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Planning Committee Members Present: Andrew Martelli, Timothy White, Kathryn Hallen

Additional Attendees Present: Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer
Richard Clavet – Facilities Manager
Michael Sahn – ECG Engineering, P.C.

Public access made available through live streaming the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools . Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@chshire.k12.ct.us .
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CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Martelli called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE

Mr. Masciana reported there were no questions or comments received.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS

Mr. Martelli introduced Mr. Michael Sahn, Senior Project Engineer for ECG Engineering, P.C., who shared his screen and proceeded to make a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Cheshire PV Assessment – Ground Mount Systems Assessments*. The presentation provided information including google map overlays for potential solar arrays at four school locations as follows:

- Cheshire High School
- Highland Elementary School
- Doolittle Elementary School
- Norton Elementary School

The potential sites were initially identified by Mr. Masciana as a starting point and Mr. Sahn explained that he received historical electrical use data from Mr. Clavet and Mr. Masciana in order to prepare an analysis that detailed the potential solar energy generation offsets from ground based installations at each of the school locations. He also explained that the information he provided in the presentation was preliminary and could be reworked for the Committee.

In the discussion that ensued, each of the potential installations were discussed at length with questions asked and answered, as follows:

- Mr. Sham indicated the cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) solutions continues to decline and storage of generated electricity may be beneficial on some of the proposed installations and should be considered.
- Funding the installation and maintenance of a solar array through a 20-year solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was discussed and seems to be the preference at this time. Using the CT Greenbank was discussed as a possibility that can be explored.

- Mr. Sahm explained that the Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit (ZREC) program is expected to be accepting applications for new solar projects from April through June and time remains to submit an application.
- Vehicle charging stations can be an added benefit to carport-style arrays.
- A potential solar array installed on the far west side of the Cheshire High School property near the linear trail which could potentially generate 90% of the school's demand would require approximately 3 wooded acres to be clear-cut which was decidedly unfavorable to the Committee.
- A potential carport-style array at Highland installed where the current portico at the front entrance of the school would not generate much energy and various options for alternate sites were identified and discussed. Mr. Sahm will explore the options further and report back to the Committee at a follow-up meeting.
- A potential solar carport-style array at Doolittle seemed to be viable and well-received by the Committee. Two alternate locations were discussed, specifically along the parking area entry from Cornwall Avenue as well as along the tree-line in the driveway entry from Oak Avenue. Mr. Sahm will explore the options further and report back to the Committee at a follow-up meeting.
- Potential arrays located at the back of the Norton property were also discussed and a suggestion was made to consider adding a carport-style array in the parking area leading in from N Brooksvale Rd. Mr. Sahm will explore the options further and report back to the Committee at a follow-up meeting.
- As discussed in the prior meeting held on October 22, all options need to be carefully considered so that they do not conflict with any potential future development that is being proposed by the School Modernization Committee (SMC). SMC recommendations are expected to be made in the near future and thus any future solar PV or other projects need to be planned for accordingly.

Based on the discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to continue work toward meeting the relevant deadlines for a ZREC funded project(s) and that the Committee would reconvene in approximately 2 weeks to allow for the follow-up work to be completed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Hallen, which was seconded by Mr. White, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Vincent J. Masciana
Chief Operating Officer

Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: February 17, 2021.