

Plympton Planning Board – Minutes – 10/15/2019

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
PLYMPTON
2019 OCT 29 AM 10:49

Meeting opened at 7:06 p.m. Members Present: Ann Sobolewski; John Schmid; Dan MacDonald

Borrego Solar - 0 Brook Street – Site Plan Review Application

Dean Smith appears on behalf of the Applicant.

Ms. Sobolewski states that as discussed and voted at the last meeting, the only open item is the amount and method of posting surety for the removal/decommissioning of the solar array

Mr. Smith presents the third party estimate for decommissioning which sets a figure of \$164,429. He notes that this estimate is higher than the estimate provided by the Applicant.

Mr. Schmid questions the line item in the third-party estimate for the landfill disposal of the solar panels; inquires about the reasons behind that choice and asks whether there are potential issues with that type of disposal – such as restrictions or bans that might be imposed in the future.

Mr. Smith states that the panels are silica based and there has been testing performed to determine whether or not the panels are safe for disposal in a landfill. He noted that it is anticipated that the future will present greater options for recycling the panels, but as those are not yet developed, the estimate uses landfill disposal as the basis for the estimate.

Mr. Smith then notes that performance bonds were the method of surety used in the other approved sections of this project (this is an addition to an existing solar array). They would prefer a Letter of Credit and not a cash bond because the company will sell off this asset and it is easier to transfer a letter of credit from one owner's account to another.

The Board discussed the three options for surety: Bond, Escrow Account, Letter of Credit.

Ms. Sobolewski questioned who would manage/be responsible for a Letter of Credit and offered to consult with the Town Treasurer. She will ask the treasurer whether Letters of Credit had been accepted by the Treasurer in the past and whether the Treasurer would be willing to hold a Letter of Credit. She will report back at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the amount of the surety with the understanding that the Board can increase the estimate by 25% to ensure that there is adequate surety in the event of increased future costs and other contingencies.

Ms. Sobolewski moved to continue the hearing the next meeting on 10/28/2019 in order to set the form of surety once the Treasurer has been consulted.

Mr. Schmid seconds.

Unanimous vote in favor.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of past meetings.

Ms. Sobolewski moved to accept the Minutes of June 24, 2019 as written Mr. Schmid seconded the motion, unanimous vote in favor.

Ms. Sobolewski moved to accept the Minutes of July 22, 2019 as written Mr. Schmid seconded the motion, unanimous vote in favor.

Ms. Sobolewski moved to accept the Minutes of August 19, 2019 as written Mr. Schmid seconded the motion, unanimous vote in favor.

Ms. Sobolewski moved to accept the Minutes of September 3, 2019 as written Mr. Schmid seconded the motion, unanimous vote in favor.

Ms. Sobolewski moved to accept the Minutes of September 23, 2019 as written Mr. Schmid seconded the motion, unanimous vote in favor.

Old Business

Discussion about the solar bylaw amendments and the timing of Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Schmid noted that the final comments on the bylaw amendments were shared after 2 members of the solar subcommittee engaged in a discussion with Town Counsel.

Ms. Sobolewski moves to adjourn, Mr. Schmid seconds the motion, unanimous vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned 7:48 p.m.
