

Newfield Planning Board

PUBLIC HEARING 12-2-20

Board Chair opened the Public hearing at 7:02 pm for an application submitted by NBD Solar Maine, LLC. This meeting is a continuation of a hearing held on 11-4-20.

Introduction of public hearing process

Attendees:

Ben, Skip, Anthony, Dan, Emily, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Loranger, Andrea, Lenny, Shelly, Eric, 2 community members on zoom

Documents for the project and the hearing are available on the town web site and at town office

The purpose of the meeting is to inform and obtain information from the community on an application submitted by NBD Solar, LLC with the address of 120 Front St., Marion, Ma., owner, Christian Loranger. The applicant has submitted an application for a Conditional Use Permit to install a 4.99 MW ground mounted solar array. Located on 15 a parcel located on map 22 lot 4.1 on 66 Water St. in the rural district of Newfield.

The application process started on 9-2-20 and continued 10-2-20, 10-31-20 site walk and 11-4-20 public hearing.

Mr. Christian Loranger spoke and gave an overview of the project.

Mr. Loranger brought samples of some of the main components from a solar project that are similar to what will be used in Newfield. Photovoltaic panel, rack screws, rack braces and schedule 40 conduit were available to view.

Mr. Loranger stated that Terra Smart slide galvanized steel racking system is used to hold the panels.

Galvanized screws are used to hold the racking system, holes are predrilled, screws are set 4 ft down.

Panels are 420 watts each and can with-stand 170 mph wind speed and are able to handle the snow load in this area of the state of Maine.

The panels will be set at a 20-degree angle to the sun facing Rte. 11.

Black material on the front of the panel allows the heat to come in and generates power both positive and negative which goes to an inverter, then to a transformer and out to the connection point at the street. Schedule 40 conduit and wire are used to connect the panels.

Questions:

1) Is there a time constraint or deadline? ITC, investment tax credit is a large portion of the financing of this project and allows the project to receive financial incentive in the way of a tax credit. This tax credit drops another 4 percent in Dec. and will make the project difficult to fund. The federal government allows safe harboring until Dec. 31st. Carrying more debt on project might not be a good business direction. That is the rush on the project.

2) Question on plants and vegetation, proper zone for our area and plants guarantee,

Mr. Loranger and Mr. Tobey --if a tree dies in 4 years we replant, Spruce supplies a good visual buffer

3) What does the applicant need from the board to move forward? Question on conditions of approval.

Mr. Loranger :needs planning board approval to move forward with the project. This is the first step.

4) Schedule 40 pipes how deep and how much excavation?

Mr. Loranger: Trough is 24 to 30 inches deep 6-8 feet wide.

5) How did the company come up with decommissioning value?

Mr. Loranger the break down carefully by the hour for man hour, machine hour, trucking, and dismantling. That is how we get to that dismantling number and that is added to each year for inflation.

6) The project will last 25 years and you don't add panels after that?

Mr. Loranger-Panels will degrade down over time. Project will likely be repowered around year 20 with new panels, the racking is good for 40 or 50 years.

public hearing closed at 7:35

minutes typed by:

gd 12-30-20

