

**Blue Hill Planning Board - DRAFT
March 8th, 2023 – Meeting Minutes**

Location

Blue Hill Town Hall, 18 Union Street, Blue Hill, ME

Attendance

Present: Mary Alice Hurvitt (chair), Scott Blanchard (vice chair), Matthew Martin, Gavin Riggall, Emily Cushman, Sergei Breus, Bryce Farnham (CEO)

Remote: Aga Dixon (Town Attorney), Kristin Collins (Abutter Attorney), Stephen Wagner (SolAmerica Attorney), Peter O'Brien, Ryan Peters (SolAmerica), Butler Smythe

Public: Tony Yonnone (SolAmerica), Mary Glassanos, Karen Frangoulis, Scott Miller, John Bates, Jason Young, Maggie White (Press), Laura Markham, Semena Curlik, Daniel Cooke, Jonathan Hart

The meeting began at 5:37pm and a quorum was recognized - 6 board members were present including alternate member Matthew Martin.

Discussion: The Board reviewed the minutes from the February 8th, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Emily motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 8th. Matthew seconded. Approved 5-0. Board member Sergei Breus abstained due to not attending the February 8th meeting.

Mary Alice began the meeting by moving the public comment until after the Board made its final vote on the SolAmerica project. At this time no new information can be brought to the Board's attention regarding this project. Attorney Dixon agreed and advised the Board to not reopen the record. Attorney Dixon stated that there had been one request to reopen the record regarding the archeological map that was presented by abutter John Bates at a prior meeting. The map is in the record but there is still a question of the accuracy of that map. Attorney Dixon advised the Board to decide whether the draft condition of approval related to the archeological resource issue that she has provided would provide the Board with the accurate information needed to come to a decision. The condition states that the applicant must submit their findings regarding the map, and its alignment to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Attorney Dixon and the Board made a few changes to the condition of approval letter. Changes needed to be made regarding the process of the application review, deliberations, and public hearings. Attorney Dixon suggested elaborating further on the applicable licenses, permits, and requirements that are part of the conditions of approval. Scott suggested changing the reference to 6 vernal pools to 3, as there are a total of 6 vernal pools in Blue Hill, but only 3 of those are on the proposed project site.

Motion: Scott motioned to accept the findings of facts and the recommendation by the town attorney and to approve the decision. Matthew seconded. Approved 6-0.

At 6:09 Mary Alice opened the public comment.

Several members of the public spoke about their concerns regarding this solar project. Blue Hill resident Jonathan Hart has been a service electrician for Revision Energy for 8 years. He came to the meeting to offer his knowledge as a resource to the community in hopes of answering community members' questions and concerns. Jonathan stated that "solar can be done responsibly."

Public comment was closed at 6:30pm

The Board then discussed ordinance changes that will be voted on at the town meeting in April.

Motion: Emily motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm. Matthew seconded. Approved 6-0.

Next Meeting: April 12th, 2023

Signed: _____



Date: _____

5/10/23