

**RSU5 Sustainability Advisory Committee**  
**June 4, 2019**  
**Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Will Pidden, Amanda Johnson, Valy Steverlynck, Maura Pillsbury, Steven Konstantino, DennisOuellette, Becky Foley, Marie Wendt

Absent: Bob Stevens, Charlotte Soule, Kap Wallingford, Jordan Canfijn

Visitors: John Eagan, Peter Joseph

John Eagan met with Valy and Dennis about different options around solar energy. There are several solar vendors in the State of Maine such as Revision. In January 2020 tax benefit is declining. Business owners can depreciate the value. Going with a third party ownership can realize many tax benefits. If the District wanted to put in solar arrays, they could place it on the high school roof, generate power, accumulate credits that you could use in the winter. Could generate \$6100 worth of electricity in a year. This would cost approximately \$158,000 to install. Third party may be willing to pay for the cost, and they would sell in six months. Two different costs that would be offsetting one another, but would be buying renewable energy. Six years the District would buy the system at approximately 55% of initial costs. Panels are good for approximately 25 years. Could bond or use reserve accounts if wanted to buy outright. Could get immediate benefits through this. The two options include own directly or go through a third-party ownership. Could wait 10 years and the cost would reduce more.

There is currently a proposed bill that would allow districts to go in to purchase with other entities. Mount Desert School District just installed a solar project recently?

The question was asked whether the District could be one of the investors? John will check on this.

The maintenance of the system would require the project to go on a new roof. Need to budget \$1,100 a year, i.e. inverter, insurance to cover the costs.

The high school currently uses about 475,000 kilowatt per year at a cost of \$63,000 per year. Solar credits cannot offset demand charge.

Peter: The Town of Freeport commissioned a study – Peter can forward this to the group. Sewer district, town, and RSU. District has big usage (2.1 million kilowatt hours) Town: 400,000 Sewer: 800,000. Looked at a couple of the locations. Even using all of our space in the RSU, we could not fully offset the use. Town does not have a location that has this kind of capacity. Had discussions with third party partners; they are on hold until legislation is decided. Option of doing a smaller project.

Meeting Dates for 2019-2020 school year. Meetings are from 7:00-8:00am at the Superintendent's Office.

September 10, 2019

October 1, 2019

November 5, 2019

December 3, 2019

January 7, 2020

February 4, 2020

March 3, 2020

April 7, 2020

May 5, 2020

June 2, 2020

**Agenda for the September 10, 2019 Meeting:**

- Prioritize brainstormed areas