

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

POTENTIAL SOLAR PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2019

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm in Room A127 at Westwood High School by Subcommittee Chair Josepha Jowdy. Also present were: Ken Aries, Lemma Jn-baptiste, Carol Lewis, and Emily Parks. John Cianciarulo recorded the minutes.

Chair's Report

Mrs. Jowdy updated the Subcommittee about potential solar projects at the High School, Middle School, and Hanlon. She thanked Tom Philbin, Town Energy Manager, for attending.

Discussion

Mr. Philbin presented. Currently there are solar panels installed at the High School, Middle School, Martha Jones, and Downey. These projects are successful and the District nets revenue.

Mr. Philbin proposed two projects: Solar canopies at the High School, Council on Aging, and Middle School; and a solar farm on the Hanlon School property. The Council on Aging has indicated that they are interested in the project. Mr. Aries provided a satellite view of the Hanlon School area¹.

Mrs. Jowdy questioned who had control over the property being discussed at Hanlon. She asked for clarification on whether the School Department controls the area being discussed.

Mrs. Jowdy indicated that there were some concerns regarding the parking lot: the aesthetics, space for events like Westwood Day, young drivers, and limited parking for students. Mrs. Lewis echoed Mrs. Jowdy's sentiments.

Mr. Philbin indicated that there would be no loss of parking.

Mrs. Jn-baptiste asked whether all roof availability had been maximized. Mr. Aries indicated that it had not. There is still space available on the roof at the Middle School. At the time of the initial solar project, roof repairs were taking place.

Ms. Parks agreed that the solar panels have been successful and that the remaining space on the Middle School roof would be an interesting possibility.

Mrs. Jowdy agreed that the School Committee is in favor of maximizing solar energy. However, no one on the Committee is comfortable with canopies. Maximizing roof availability and using space at the Hanlon School property, if the District indeed controls it, are ideas worth pursuing.

Ms. Parks asked about the impact of the solar project in the building project design process; wondering if it is important to clarify energy goals at the beginning of the project. Mr. Philbin agreed that this is the case and that there are larger incentives at the start of a project.

The Subcommittee indicated that it would report the discussion of this meeting back to the full Committee.

New Business

There was no new business.

¹ Google Earth satellite view of 790 Gay Street -- 2018

Mrs. Lewis motioned to adjourn. Mr. Aries seconded. Vote: 5-0-0.

Result: Approved (Unanimous).

The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.