

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING OF MAY 20, 2013
AT THE JESSE SMITH LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., Jeffrey Partington, Chairman, presiding.

Members Present: Jeffrey Partington, Marc Tremblay, Rick Lemek, Bruce Ferreira, Dov Pick, Christopher Desjardins, and Jeffrey Presbrey.

Members Absent: Leo Felice and Michael Lupis.

Others Present: Chris Kearns, of the RI Office of Energy Resources, Mike Kirkwood and Bill Guertin, of Pascoag Utility District, Joseph Raymond, Building Official, Thomas Kravitz, Planning Director and Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner.

II. ATTENDANCE REVIEW:

Mr. Partington acknowledged that Mr. Felice was excused due to work and Mr. Lupis was excused due to a family emergency.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Continued Discussion on Establishing a Solar Ordinance dealing with Solar Photovoltaic Installations (referred by the Town Council): Mr. Kravitz told the Board that he had contacted several experts to provide the Board with information on solar farm installations and to answer questions the Board had from their previous discussion on May 6th. He introduced Mr. Chris Kearns, of the RI Office of Energy Resources and Mike Kirkwood and Bill Guertin, of the Pascoag Utility District. He noted that he had also contacted the Douglas Town Engineer, who had provided information and photos of solar farm installations currently being built just over the RI line in Massachusetts. He then turned the discussion over to Mr. Kearns.

Mr. Kearns began by explaining the various renewal energy programs and incentives available with the state, focusing on the two types of solar programs currently in operations. They are the Distributed Generation Contracts Program, which focuses on solar farm installations, and Net Metering, that deals with smaller installations (1 KW to 10 KW) that allow homeowners to generate up to 25% above their normal usage for resale back to the grid. He proceeded to outline each program and noted that the programs work directly with National Grid. These programs are actually for the pilot period of December 2011 to December 2014. He noted that each application must be approved for funding by the State.

When asked by the Board if the State also works with the Pascoag Utility District, Mr. Kearns stated that the Pascoag Utility District cannot be part of these programs as they are a non-profit utility. Mr. Kirkwood, of the Pascoag Utility District, noted that they have their own incentive programs and will work with the individual homeowner or business within the PUD service area.

With the previous information in mind, the Board noted that the only areas in Town where the State programs would apply would be the service areas of National Grid, which essentially is the general commercial area along Route 102.

Having had their questions answered, the Board thanked the representatives for their time and information.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Mr. Ferreira at 8:15 p.m. The motion received a second from Mr. Desjardins and carried unanimously by the Board.

Recorded by: _____
M. Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner