

Sandisfield Green Committee Minutes September 1, 2021

In Attendance: George Riley, Anina Carr, Larry Dwyer, Jeff Bye
Location: Town Hall Annex, 12:00 PM

The meeting began at 12:10 PM with the reading and approval of the minutes from August 26, 2021.

The following topics were reviewed:

- Bids for solar arrays.

Keith Torrico of Grenergy and Sun Bug attended the meeting via Zoom to answer any questions regarding their bids. The meeting started with Jeff's analysis of the bids. All the companies used the same type of inverter. This specification was basically a wash. He had two questions about Sun Bug Energy and Grenergy to size up the roofs. Both companies came back with the same estimate for annual energy production. Valley Solar gave a difference of only 3%. The big difference was Energy Resources which had a difference of 30% greater. George evaluated the price per watt was as follows:

- Valley Solar \$3.11
- Grenergy \$3.26
- Sun Bug \$3.13
- Energy Resources \$3.03

If we bump down Energy Resources to the same as Valley Solar, it would still be less cost per watt generated. Jeff suggested that since we are using Massachusetts money, we should be using a Massachusetts contractor. Alex Bowman (not attending the meeting) had said earlier that he used Grenergy to install his solar panels and he was very satisfied with them. Grenergy was the most expensive of the quotes. Jeff said all four companies have good reputations, but he is concerned about how soon they could start. A question came up about tax incentives and Smart Incentives would not be affected.

Grenergy gave a time frame and they said they could install this winter. They said they could start 10 to 12 weeks after signing contracts. The installation would take 1 to 2 weeks. Eversource would take 10 to 14 days to switch out the meters. The project would take approximately 2 months from start to finish. Sun Bug said a typical project takes about 8 weeks to get it up and running.

George asked if there was any advantage of having the same company installing the solar panels and heat pumps at a later date. He also commented that Valley Solar did not breakdown material vs. labor costs. Valley Solar and Sunbug were close in the breakdown of costs. Energy Resources was cheaper.

Larry commented that Jeff's report made a big difference in getting approval from the DOER which gave us more credibility. Jeff said that all the companies are competent and could do the job. George compared Valley Solar to Energy Resources. Sun Bug Solar showed 30 kW DC power. Energy Resources had the same power, but Jeff questioned why Energy Resources annual production 28.1% kWh (kilo Watt hours) more.

The total costs of bids was as follows:

- Valley Solar \$87,807 – No breakdown.
- Grenergy \$90,000
- Sun Bug \$86,345
- Energy Resources \$86,472

The warranties of the panels and the source of the panels were compared. Warranties were as follows:

- Grenergy warranty was 25 years for the panels and 15 years for workmanship.
- Sun Bug warranty was 25 years for the same panels and 10 years for workmanship.
- Valley Solar warranty was 25 years for Quantum panels and 15 years for workmanship.
- Energy Resources warranty was 25 years for the panels and 5 years for workmanship.
- The inverter warranty was the same for all companies.

The final vote for selecting the contractors was as follows.

- George Riley Grenergy
- Larry Dwyer Grenergy
- Jeff Bye Valley Solar
- Nina Carr Grenergy

Grenergy was selected as the contractor. Two main considerations were that Grenergy was a local Massachusetts contractor and the solar panels selected were made in Singapore which has a higher labor standard than Quantum panels that were made in China.

Meeting adjourned 1:45 PM.

Minutes by Nina Carr and Larry Dwyer