**Cherryfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023**

Board Members Present: Crystal Hitchings, Billie Jo Brooks, Ryan Shaw, Ryan Beal, Kimberly Smith

Public Present: Sue Dalton

Meeting Called to order at 6:05 pm.

Public comments: None

Minutes from April and May: Motion to approve minutes as written(Kimberly Smith); seconded by Billie Jo Brooks: all in favor, motion passes.

Election of Chairperson:

A motion was made by Billie Jo Brooks that Crystal Hitchings take over as Chairperson. Ryan Beal seconded. All in favor, motion passes.

Crystal accepted the chairperson appointment with conditions that tasks are divided between members according to strengths and skills of each member.

Kimberly Smith will do any secretarial tasks with the help of Ryan Beal.

Ryan Shaw will be the person to communicate with the CEO.

Old Business

1. The Planning Board received all the drawings and plans for the solar project on the Willey District Rd. The board met via Zoom with representatives working on the development of the project, including Dan Herlitzinger, Senior Project Manager for SolAmerica, Ryan Peters, Director of Development for Sol America, Tom Daniels, from TRC (a consulting firm working on the project).

Sol America is a solar developer based out of Atlanta, GA. TRC are their consultant and both have done several projects in Maine and New England.

Dan Herlitzinger spoke about the project. This will be a 1 megawatt solar project encompassing 20 acres in land use. Applications have been submitted to DEP, Army Corp of Engineers and an application is ready to be signed with Versant for connection to the grid.

Notification was sent to abutting land owners. To date, they had received only on phone call from an abutter to the north of the project, who is not a resident. They had no issues with the project.

Tom Daniels, from TRC, explained plans for the solar array. This will not be a fixed system but will follow the direction of the sun throughout the day. Minimal localized grading is needed and vegetation along the road will be maintained as much as possible. There will be a decommissioning plan for the end of the life of the project and permits have been submitted to DEP for that.

There will be a mailing to abutters with a summary version of the project and inviting them to the next planning board meeting. The project managers will provide that information to abutters.

Remaining details to approving the plan are the results of permits from DEP, etc., submission of the application fee and submission of any information needed for fire chief. Application received preliminary approval pending receipt of the application fee and approval from all state permits. The next meeting with them will be on July 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM to address any concerns from abutting landowners.

2. Ryan Shaw submitted a building permit for an addition to his building on RTE 182.

 Discussion focused on size and distance from boundaries.

 Motion was made by Billie Jo Brooks to approve the permit. Seconded by Ryan Beal.

 Motion passed 4 – 0 with 1 abstention

3. The planning board will be starting the process of revamping the land use ordinance this fall.

Adjourned at 7:43 pm.(motion by Kimberly Smith, seconded by Billie Jo Brooks, all in favor.

Crystal Hitchings\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Billie Jo Brooks\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kimberly Smith\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ryan Shaw\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ryan Beal\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Approved and Signed by Planning Board members at the July 19 meeting)*