TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 13, 2018

Present:  Lori Loughlin
          Tom Long
          Pam Griffing
          Dan Bigda
          Doug Aspinall
          Roland Sickenberger

Absent: Brad Hibbard

The Advisory Committee attended the Selectboard’s meeting.

Dan Bigda and Doug Aspinall have been researching decommissioning of solar panel systems. Dan Bigda handed out a fact sheet and gave a presentation. He discussed composition of the panels which contain various chemicals that could leak into the environment, the process and estimated costs to decommission a solar field to be $98,900 per acre. This estimate does not include if panels require disposition to a hazardous waste site. He discussed the need to make sure that the Town does not end up paying for decommission of any solar site should the developer abandon the site by including in their zoning code an abandonment and removal clause of solar panel systems, special permit applications include a decommissioning plan submitted by the developer as part of the site plan, bonds, escrow accounts.

John Perry, Dynamic Energy and his engineer who are in the permitting process for the Route 67 solar site were present. He stated that the panels are monitored continuously for breakdown and repaired. Most materials can be recycled and there are recycling plants now that recycle broken panels. He stated he will have a decommissioning plan for this site.

There was general discussion with a question and answer session. The “bottom line” is that the Town must make sure to have a decommissioning plan and funds available before issuing any permits.

Lori Loughlin received a Request to Transfer Funds from the Reserve Account in the amount of $25,000 for the forensic audit. Pam Griffing made a motion to approve. Doug Aspinall second. Vote was unanimous to approve the transfer of $25,000 from the Reserve Fund for the forensic audit.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary