

Town of Pendleton Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Dec 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm – Zoom Remote Meeting

I. Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm

Members in attendance: Tobias Frommuller (TF), Jessica Glaser (JG) and Andrew Harrison (ASH).

II. Public Input –

None present

III. Correspondence –

None

IV. Unfinished Business:

Haven't heard back from UB or NYSerta yet, but Jim Shultz of Democracy Center is joining tonight.

Will reattempt.

V. Current Business

Guest Speaker – Jim Shultz (Democracy Center) to discuss solar field development across Niagara County and what other municipalities are doing with negotiations.

Guest – Dave Britton – Pendleton Town Engineer, Planning Board member.

Invited Joel Maerten (could not attend) and Dave Fischer (no reply) as well.

Jim Shultz – <https://www.democracyctr.org/>

Thorough notes collected by JG.

Summary:

1. Niagara County is a target for Community and Industrial Solar projects due to available land, land willing to be leased, and proximity to high-voltage transmission line (>7 miles away from a transmission line raises the cost to the company)
2. Economics – rather than pay taxes to municipality, companies prefer pilot payment. Example was \$40-50k per MW – making \$35k pilot instead.
3. Consider ESCRO funds for cleanup after lease is completed
4. Suggestion to target brownfields if possible
5. Seek intervener funds to get an expert to help negotiate from the position to benefit the town/county
6. Consider negotiating building retail credit at wholesale service for company by supplying energy to school/district rather than strict financial pilot, thus something more tangible for residents.

VI. Adjournment at 7:48

Motion ASH; Seconded TF Opposed 0; Motion carried.