

**Building and Grounds Report  
October 2020**

Committee Members:

Paul Aroune	Mike Sullivan	Jim Plukas	Rob Buckla	Mike Fenn	Sarino Tropeano
Jim Fleishman	Brother Joe	Grant Scott			

The committee has conferenced several times since the last board meeting. The committee continues to focus on the list of items that was set during the April 2018 committee overnight, as well as, how does the committee fit into the future planning for The Mountain.

**1. Timbering:**

The firm has begun foresting the land in late Spring. There have been some issues with placement of logs on parking lot near The Chapel. We have worked with the firm and they will be fixing the lot after they are complete. There has been an extension of the logging timeframe through March of 2020.

**2. WI-FI Update:**

The committee has been looking into increasing the bandwidth and speed of the wi-fi reception for the Mountain community members since virtual meetings is our new normal the level and speed of internet access is too slow for a quality experience.

We have moved to satellite internet in The House of Peace during the first week of October. The speeds we are receiving average around 24-35 mbps. The Mountain was running around 5 mbps on the cellular wi-fi that we were using the last 2 years or so. We continue to work with Michael Brooks who designs intranet installations. He designed a plan to have the internet come into a building and bounce it to all the other buildings using small 9-inch dishes on the outside of each building. We plan on using this plan but will have it installed by a local intel person who Don Watkins has referred. It is the hope of the committee that the installation of this intranet will occur over the next few months. We plan on using the money received by the sale of the Vermont Land to pay for the intranet.

**3. Alternative/Back-up Power for The Mountain:**

This topic has been a lively discussion within the committee and Mountain Community. With the topic of back-up power, the committee has moved in the direction of researching Solar Power for back up energy during a storm power outage, but also the practicality of having complete solar power for all energy needs on The Mountain.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Mike Fenn, Paul Aroune and the Mountain Community met with Dean Stanfield (1988 Bona Grad) who happens to work for a large Solar Panel Company in NYS (Solar Liberty). We explained the goals of going completely green that fits the Franciscan way of life, but certainly looking into back up power for the living spaces. Dean did a great job of explaining the size of the array we would need to provide the annual 60,000 watt usage.

We were pleasantly surprised by the size of the array and at the cost. There are 2 discounts we can tap into automatically, one through the company, and the other is through the financial institution Collective Sun that automatically provides a 12% discount on the cost through their funding. This funding can be paid off right away without interest at not cost. The cost would end up roughly around \$65,000 to power the entire Mountain by Solar Energy. This is the rough estimate of a gas generator that the committee was looking into a few months ago. Obviously, we would work with the development committee to look at donors for this project.

The full array would be about 80 panels (roughly 4 times the size that is on the Other Houses' rough currently. We would be looking into a ground mount of the panels so that there would be no need to take panels off current roofs that would need to be updated over the next 5-10 years.

Another opportunity we could have in addition to our array of solar panels that would feed The Mountain is to have Solar Liberty use 20 acres of our land to place a solar array to feed the regional grid with clean energy. These 20 acres can be outside the normal area of living and would only need a road with electric lines nearby. Solar Liberty would provide The Mountain with a roughly \$20,000 annual payment for the use of those 20 acres. It is something that may deserve an ad-hoc committee to further look into.

Paul Aroune