

WARREN PLANNING BOARD
Revised MINUTES OF April 17, 2019

PRESENT: Mr. William Ramsey: Chairman: Mr. Derick Veliz; Mr. Robert Souza
Joyce Eichacker: Richard Demetrius; Rachel Carney; Kerry Schmidt; Don Makowski: Fire Chief Adam Lavoie

ATTENDEE: See List

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM held in the Shepard Municipal Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Mr. Ramsey explained why the Board and Committee want to amending the Solar By-law.

The Town has been inundated by Solar Facility Applications. Certain Neighborhoods are being overwhelmed by Solar. Little Rest Road has 6 Facility and Syncarpha Capital would like to add one more. The Neighborhood has had issues with the ones that are in place already (water runoff and the facility's not being maintained, mowing and plowing not being done). The Board has 3 application for the Coy Hill & Cutler Road area. Right now, the Town has 8 in operation and the Board has 9 more Applications being Heard. If all are permitted the total will be 17 Facility and a total of 500 acres being clear cut in the Town.

Mrs. Eichacker explained the purpose amended By-Law (copy in office).

The Committee took the By-Law that was amended last year and enhanced it.

Limited Large Solar Arrays to the Commercial & Major Development Overlay Districts.

Chief Lavoie had input on the Battery Storage Containers & Emergency Contact Information and access road.

Question

Why the Battery Storage now? In the smart program for large solar projects they get more money.

Is there a plan for Decommissioning? Yes, a cash bond is required when the Building Permit is granted.

How much money does the Town get, Charlton & Barre had to pay back money to the Solar Applicants? The Town will have a Pilot with each Project.

Citizen Commented

Biggest problem is no one really cares. The Planning Board should be opening up the Master Plan. This has been discussed.

Questions

What's the different between a large solar array and one in someone's back yard? A large array is greater than 1 MW, 1 and under is consider a small array.

What happens when all these projects end and what happens to all the panels? At this time there is only one place that takes panels. The State has not looked into this yet. No one knows what will happen down the road.

Is the Fire Dept. able to fight a fire? At this time No. This will fall under the Permitting end. The Battery shall have a fire suppression system.

Citizen Commented

Thought we should have put a map on the Towns Website where solar would be allowed. Also, we should have had it videotaped.

What happens if a child gets hurt on the site? The property owner would be liable. Also, the project would have insurance.

Camera will be monitoring the site.

Concerns with abutters wells. What precaution do we have, can we have water testing before projects begin? This is not in the bylaw but can be amended at a later date.

How unique are we from other Towns? Other Towns are doing amendment to their bylaws also. We are not the only Town in this situation.

With no further questions or concerns the meeting was closed @ 7:54.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M Czub
Secretary

02/24/2020
Date Approved