

SOLAR COMMITTEE MEETING
2023

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10,

MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES CAMPBELL (TOWN ATTORNEY), BRIAN GLISE (CODE OFFICER, TOWN OF AVON), COUNCILMAN MALACHY COYNE, BRIAN THORN (TOWN OF AVON PLANNING BOARD), MARY UNDERHILL (LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD), EDWARD FORSYTHE, PAT RIO, JACALYN EDDY, DANIEL BROKAW, TED GRISWOLD (LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLANNING)

CLERK: KIM MCDOWELL

Jim Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mary Underhill handed out some information to everyone.

Jim Campbell asked if there were any questions or comments.

Brian Thorn had a question regarding the maps that were handed out, he wanted to know what the color codes meant. Mary explained what the colors stand for. Jim Campbell stated he sent out an email regarding easement definitions from the conservancy.

We began with the definition of roof mounted solar energy systems. There was a question about the 110% cap, and it will stay that way throughout the local law, and everyone agreed.

There was discussion regarding commercial roof mounted solar systems on farm buildings and what that could look like or even if they would be able to be put on the roofs due to the weight.

Malachy asked about photovoltaic and could it just say any solar energy system. Jim Campbell stated he can change it, but they decided to keep it.

For solar energy equipment there was discussion about battery energy storage. Mary stated it will eventually become energy storage and right now battery energy storage is being pushed to everyone.

Type 1 solar energy system is ground mounted systems intended to be used to offset home or business consumption, farm operation, etc. It is intended to be used on premises and Jim feels the 110% cap language should be added here as well.

Type 2 solar energy systems are the bulk of these regulations, but the definition is short, ground mounted systems intended to produce energy for offsite sale and consumption by one or more customers.

There was discussion about changing the restrictions other than using the 25 acres in our law and it was determined to keep it the way it is.

Went through Rooftop-Mounted Solar Energy Systems with no changes.

Commercial Building-Mounted Solar Energy System was discussed. Mary stated there is a possibility that the spec sheets for equipment given during the site plan review may change due to availability. Jim feels we need to amend the law to state any changes to equipment, need to be submitted to the Town of Avon before the certificate of completion can be granted.

Special Use Permit Application Requirements were updated previously and seem to be working well. There was discussion of the relationship between the landowner and developer and why the Town requires the agreements we do. Mary also stated that landowners need to do due diligence and educate themselves with the local law.

Mary suggested staging areas be directed away from non-participating residents or structures which Jim will add.

The decommissioning plan needs to have a good record of the parcel prior to construction since it may not happen for 30-50 years. There was discussion on what to do with trees that have been growing for 30-50 years and what if the landowner doesn't want it to go back to the original way. Jim will add some drone language to the law.

The Town will be responsible for making sure that the Bond is updated each year and the PILOT is invoiced and paid for each year as well.

Jim will add some language about glare.

Brian asked if there is a standard for fencing since he has been asked about agricultural fencing. Mary stated there is not and it is up to the Town as to what they would like.

Brian also asked the timeline for fixing fences and replacing trees; Jim stated that is up to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Discussion on time limit on completion, giving 12 months for obtaining a building permit and 24 months for completion is realistic. The Town can also grant extension on permits if not completed within the timeframe.

Malachy asked Jim how many more meetings and Jim stated 3-4 more. Then Jim will incorporate everything into the law and have the committee review to make sure it was what we talked about. After that it will go to the Town Board to review and approve.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00PM in the Village Hall.

It will be in the kitchen area due to Court in the room we usually use