

Wayne Planning Board

Meeting Notes

March 9th, 2023

- **Attendees**

- Board Members – Andrew Gorrill, Chair; Ed Bergman, Vice Chair; Megan Stevenson, Mitchell Cob, Jeannie Burnett, Tom Moran, (Doug Farris was absent)
 - CEO- Chip Stephens
 - Public- Alyson Steele, Recording Clerk; Amy Black, Stan Davis, Jean Rocap, Stephan Mclaughlin, Diana Mclaughlin, Anne L Huntington, Aaron Cartterfield
- Zoom participants: John Stevenson, Lars

- **Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm**

The chairman introduced the Board members and informed the general public of the purpose of the meeting, to go over the task the Select Board to hold an open forum to discuss Solar Ordinance for the Town of Wayne which will be voted on in June at the Town meeting.

Open Discussion to Board Members

Ed Bergman felt the ordinances max height for solar panels was too low, and wanted clarification on where the height measurements began.

Opened Discussion to the public

Anne Huntington: felt that the 10 feet was too low and that the max height should be raised to avoid issues with snow and allow animals to graze under the panels.

Wanted to know why there was a 30 percent limitation on how much a solar installation can occupy.

Wanted to know how we protect areas that are considered prime open space areas from being used for solar farms.

Stan Davis: asked if fire stations should review placement for panels and should they have a process for considering panels at the peak.

Aaron Chrostowsky: suggested that the Fire Department should review applications of permits.

Aaron Cartterfield (Maine Solar Solutions): claimed that 99 percent of his solar installations allow for 18 inches from roof edges and are made to go dead within 35

seconds of shutting off. And that there are 1–3-foot paths between panels. He also suggested sites have a plaque stating what type of system the premises has for fire fighters. wanted to know who was going to do the environmental studies for places under 20 acers. Chip Stephens refuted this, Self-Standing Solar Installations with battery's are not shut down like instillations connected to the grid

Steve Mclaughlin: brought a guide written by the Maine Audubon of technical guidelines for what is regulated and felt it would be good to amend it or have reference to it in the ordinance.

Jean Rocap: wanted the Planning Board to reconsider some flexibility in the areas noted as not suitable for solar panels.

Stephen Mclaughlin: wanted to know how land that was designated timber harvest will be affected with the placement of a solar array.

Stan Davis: wanted definition rather than discretion on who gets flexibility of placement with the solar ordinance.

There were 2 Zoom participants there were no online comments asked of the Planning Board.

Public hearing closed 7:12pm

Work Session opened (Stevenson/Moran) (6-0)

Amended page 5 item 4 and on page 8 item 2 to change height of solar panels from 10 feet above ground surface to 15 feet above the ground surface, measured from the ground to the top of the solar panel structure. (Bergman/Moran) (6-0)

Motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 7:53pm. (Stevenson/Moran) (6-0)

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6th at the Ladd Center 6:30pm.