

Town of Oswego Joint Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Minutes Monday, October 17, 2022

Planning Chair: Francis Dellamano

Planning Board Members: Mike Dehm, Ken Ellsworth, Ernie Mears, Lee Phillips, Barry Pritchard, Judy Sabin-Watson

Zoning Board Chair: Debra Shoenfelt Jaskula

Zoning Board Members: Bob Baker, Ken Krapf, Tricia Lorenz,

Attorney: Kevin Carraccioli

Secretary: Kathy Delaney

The meeting was called to order by Francis Dellamano at 7:00 PM

Board attendance: Mike Dehm, Fran Dellamano, Ken Ellsworth, Lee Phillips, Barry Pritchard, Bob Baker, Ken Krapf, Tricia Lorenz, Debra Shoenfelt Jaskula, Chris Ross (RIC), Nick Formanowicz

Excused: Ernie Mears, Judy Sabin Watson

Others present: Kevin Caraccioli, Kathy Delaney

Last meeting minutes: Mike Dehm made a motion to approve the September 19, 2022 meeting minutes with correction, second by Barry Pritchard. All in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.

Public Hearing: A joint public hearing was held with the Zoning Board regarding the proposed 3,000 KW solar distribution facility to be built on 447 Co Rt 20. Fran Dellamano gave a history of the zoning in the Town. Chris Ross gave a power point presentation on the solar project.

The floor was opened to the public with comments/concerns as follows:

Richard Hart – requested information on PILOT agreement.

Kevin Caraccioli explained the process.

Marie Schadt County Legislator of 19th district – requested clarification on PILOT, what is the country of origin of panels. She has concerns with easement and legality from Town to use Town garage road using taxpayer funded road for private business. Concerns with chemicals leeching and water runoff

Chris Ross explained the panels depends on the company they contract with. He explained that there is no evidence of chemicals leeching into ground and explained how the panels are manufactured and testing process.

Sean Muldoon turned in a petition opposing the solar farm with signatures of 58 out of 63 residents visited.

Jennifer (no last name given) – concerned with loss of acres being cut, wetlands, decommission plan, are the panels recyclable or will they go into landfill.

Chris Ross explained panels to be used are encased in glass, material will not be released into environment. There will be a bond for removal of equipment upon decommission and salvage. Lease agreement on property will transfer to new owner if property is sold.

John Kapusinski – concerned about noise, flooding, transformer danger and wildlife. Asked for explanation on trees interfering with sunlight. Concerned with home value. Question on fencing and how close are solar panels to his property line.

Chris Ross explained that their solar panels do not harm wildlife. Panels do not radiate heat. Noise would be about 50-60 decibels equivalent to a loud refrigerator or AC unit. Additional rows of vegetation will be planted.

Brian Kidder-concerned about health issues, depreciation of home

Chris Ross – explained there are no known health issues.

Edward Oleyourrk –against the project

Brook Demott –concerns with radiation (dirty electricity), pollution, contract being sold to someone else. Are the solar panels on frames? When panels expire is property owner responsible for removal. Question on bond management

Chris Ross – common for projects to exchange hands however, conditions in permits and approvals require new owner to have to comply with those conditions. Solar panels are on frames with an axis system posted in ground. Property owner is not responsible for removal.

Kevin Caraccioli –explained Town of Oswego will hold the bonds, and it gives the Town a guarantee of decommissioning.

Lisa –concern that wrong date put in paper was intentional, question on zoning, concerns, snow with panels degrading, why do this in the Town, feels this is a political agenda with climate change, disruption of wildlife, safety.

Fran Dellamano – date was a mistake, explained notifications based on current zoning laws

Chris Ross –panels can reorientate their direction based on snowfall. Sites are selected on grid capacity, on whether someone has the land to lease.

Arthur Hough – concerned with grid connection near his house, why not run it another way. Concerned about selling house with poles and wires.

Chris Ross – it will be a 3 phase line, National Grid requires it to be above ground. National Grid will have an easement of approximately 6 poles running approximately 250 feet into property.

Brian Demott – inquired if they have other areas in the Town of Oswego with permit applications

Chris Ross - currently no other projects

Kevin Caraccioli – many solar companies looking at properties to option, they all have to go through this same process in the Town.

Old Business:

None

New Business

None

Discussion:

Advantage to the Town Board or residents. Percentage of PILOT will go to Town. Zoning Board has a criteria they have to go through in order to grant a Use Variance.

Benefits of solar farm in residential area. Chris Ross will provide information

Debra Shoenfelt Jaskula let the residents know that Zoning Law is currently being reviewed and revised. No actions will be taken tonight.

Will fence be visible. It will be screened by vegetation.

The Zoning Board will meet November 17 for a Use Variance approval. Planning Board will meet November 21 for Special Permit approval.

Adjournment:

Lee Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Barry Pritchard. Meeting adjourned at 8:28.

Next meeting:

Zoning: November 17 at 7:00 PM

Planning: November 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Delaney, Secretary