

Town Board
Town of Barre
Public Hearing/Solar Energy Systems Law

July 2, 2019

Present: Supervisor Sean Pogue
Councilman Rich Bennett
Councilman Larry Gaylard
Councilman Lynn Hill
Councilman Thomas McCabe

Others present: Maureen Beach, Town Clerk; Dale Brooks, Highway Superintendent; Lance Mark, Town Attorney, Kirk Mathes, Jessica Walsh, Thomas Decker, Julie Myers, Janice Grabowski, Wesley Miller, Jean DePatie, Steve Harling, R Nacca, Kelly Dudley, Jean Peglow, George McKenna.

Supervisor Pogue called the public hearing to order at 6:05pm.

Supervisor Pogue stated the reason for the meeting, the proposed Solar Law, and read the Legal Notice that had been published in the Batavia Daily News.

Supervisor Pogue stated that at the last Town Board meeting the Town Board passed the long form SEQR. It was submitted to the County Planning Board and he met with Timothy German at the Orleans County Planning. Mr. German listed 5 items that the Town Board may want to consider:

1. Include a definition of "glare"
2. Under Section 350-119 (H)(a), add a specific set back distance from any zoning district boundary.
3. For rooftop-mounted systems, we recommend adding a condition that the solar array must be set back a minimum of 18 inches from all edges of the rooftop and the top ridge line, to allow for firefighter access to the rooftop area.
4. For utility-scale systems, a larger minimum lot area may be appropriate as a means of guiding solar farm development to the most appropriate areas.
5. Be advised that solar generating facilities producing up to 110% of a farm's electricity needs, when located within a certified agricultural district, should be exempted from standard site plan review requirements according to NYS Agricultural and Markets Law. The State instead recommends a "streamlined" site plan review process for applications meeting these criteria.

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The Town Board and most of those present discussed the items suggested by the Orleans County Planning Board.

Supervisor Pogue called the Public Hearing closed at 6:55pm.

Public Hearing was closed at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Beach