



# Town of Knox Planning Board

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Minutes: April 13, 2023

Present: Ed Ackroyd, Todd LaGrange, Betty Ketcham, Deb Nelson, Tom Wolfe.

Absent: Kurt Johnson, Bill Pasquini and Deidre Keating (alternate).

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

Tom opened the meeting by addressing his resignation as the Knox Planning Board chair and that this will be his last meeting. Deb Nelson has offered to take the position of Chair. This will be upon approval of the Knox Town Board. Email to use to contact Deb is

[Debw062@gmail.com](mailto:Debw062@gmail.com).

Dennis and June from the Knox Town Board presented Tom with a certificate and “Thank You” for his years of service from the Town Board.

Vas Lefkaditdis (past Knox town supervisor and resident) spoke and thanked Tom for his guidance and service to the Town.

## **Review of Minutes**

Correction to be made to the spelling of Deidre’s name.

*Deb made a motion to accept with the correction, Tom second and all in favor.*

## **RIC-Thompsons Lake Rd Solar Array project**

Nancy, RIC project manager, addressed all of the questions and concerns that the Planning Board had at the previous meeting. Hard copies of question and responses were distributed to Planning Board members and a hard copy will be left at the Town Hall for anyone to review.

Questions regarding how the energy from the project will be distributed. Kevin Bliss from RIC explained that this is a community solar project. It is a pool of residential and commercial customers that can utilize the benefits. The day the solar array is turned on is the day the energy goes into the grid. This concept was also explained on the original application.

A question was asked to RIC about why they have been applying for multiple solar array

projects. RIC explained why they have been trying to put up more solar array panels. This is due to the NY states goals of renewable energy and RIC is trying to help work towards these goals.

Concerns regarding why the Novello property was not originally on the map of surrounding properties. Apology given to the Novello's (in the audience) by RIC Energy. This correction has been made by RIC and is on the current application map.

Public Hearing for the project will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Certified letters to surrounding property owners (within half a mile of the project) must be sent at least 2 weeks prior to the public hearing. RIC will do this and give the certified mailing receipt to the Planning Board. A notice for the public hearing to be placed in the Altamont Enterprise, needs to be published 2 weeks prior to the meeting as well. Tiffany (Planning Board Secretary) to write and send the notice to the Knox Town Clerk, who will then submit to the Enterprise. A notice will also be on the Knox Town website regarding the May 18 public hearing.

In regards to concerns about recent Solar Array projects, Deb made a suggestion to possibly have a moratorium for new solar array projects. This was discussed and a motion made.

*Todd made a motion that the Planning Board recommend to the Knox Town Board to establish a yearlong moratorium for large scale solar array projects, as defined in zoning law section 44, for the purpose of reviewing zoning regulations and requirements.*

A vote was held:

Tom-yes  
Deb-yes  
Betty-yes  
Ed-no

Motion passed.

RIC questioning whether or not the application is complete?

*Tom made a motion that the RIC application is complete, Deb second it, all in favor.*

When will the referral for the project be sent to Albany County Planning Board?

This will be sent after the public hearing.

If anyone is still interested in another site visit RIC can set this up. A waiver from the property owner will still need to be signed for anyone who participates.

With no further questions/comments: *Tom made a motion to adjourn, Deb second it, all in favor.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting to be held May 18 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Snyder Planning Board Secretary