



Town of Knox Planning Board

Established 1822

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Minutes: January 28 2021

Present: Ed Ackroyd, Todd LaGrange, Betty Ketcham, Deb Nelson, Tom Wolfe, Bill Pasquini and Kurt Johnson via google meet.

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

John Reagan from RIC Energy Presenting

John addressed questions regarding the FEAF part II form.

1. Clarification as to why the answer is “No” to Question 9. Impact on Aesthetic Resources-The land use of the proposed action are obviously different from, or are in sharp contrast to, current land use patterns between the proposed project and a scenic or aesthetic resource. –Should be “yes” this was fixed and the edit was made. All sub questions A-F are checked as small no or small impact may occur. This is all backed up in the submittal of part 3.
2. Under question 14. Impact on energy, please confirm whether or not a. The proposed action will require a new, or an update to existing, substation-as part of the application a copy of the report for this was submitted. They will have to do some minor work to the lines at the substation.
3. Regarding question 15 and the lighting, not wanting it to effect the natural lighting of the night sky- there is no lighting at the site so there is no plan regarding this.
4. Regarding question 18 e- Requested to have it changed to a moderate to large impact, change was made.
5. The clarification was made and sentence added to part 3, specifically part 7 h, to state that 18 acres of hardwood would be removed from the project site.

Albany County Planning Board has not met yet to discuss the Knox Solar Array project, no decisions from them have been made.

Tom made a motion to approve the Knox Solar Negative Declaration Resolution, bill seconded it and a vote was cast:

Tom-yes

Bill-yes

Kurt-yes

Ed-yes

Deb-yes

Todd-no

Betty-no

Motion carried with a 5 to 2 vote.

Conditions for Site Plan Approval

1. Designation of the northerly 300 feet of the project that borders the lands of Robert M. Gordon, Alan Gaige and Lori Brucker as a Special Construction Zone wherein no construction work may begin until 10am. Additionally, Alan Gaige must be notified the night prior to any construction activity the following day.
2. RIC must construct a noise barrier along the northerly portion of the project that adjoins the properties of Alan Gaige, Robert M. Gordon and Lori E. Brucker according to design specified by RIC Energy consulting firm.
3. Town Board approval of RIC Certificate of Liability Insurance.
4. Finalization of SEQRA by the Knox Planning Board.
5. Receipt of opinion from the Albany County Planning Board.
6. Completion of the PILOT agreement with the Town of Knox.
7. Installation of Knox Box and any other safety requested by the Knox Fire Department.
8. Issuance of a finalized Building Permit by the Town of Knox Building Inspector.

Tom made a motion to give conditional site plan approval for RIC Energy, Bill seconded it and a vote was cast:

Tom-yes

Kurt-Yes

Deb-Yes

Ed-yes

Bill-yes

Todd-no

Betty-no

Motion carried with a 5 -2 vote.

Questions from the audience regarding the PILOT agreement and the ACPB decision.

The project and construction cannot begin until the PILOT agreement has been signed off on.

RIC Energy and the taxing districts must come to an agreement.

The ACPB has 3 decisions they can make. This would be to approve, approve with comments or deny. There are provisions in the state law for the Knox Planning Board to override these decisions if it came to that.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ed, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Snyder Knox Planning Board Secretary

DRAFT