

Town of Knox Planning Board

Established 1822

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Minutes: March 12, 2020

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

Bill Pasquini

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Review and approval of February Minutes

February 2020 minutes were reviewed by all Planning Board members.

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes, Deb seconded, all in favor.

RIC Energy Representative Discusses Building a Solar Array in Knox

John from RIC Energy discussed the build of a solar array which would be located in the area of route 157/Old Stage Rd. The lot is 31.7 acres.

The energy would be sold to Rate payers or anyone in National Grid territory. Subscriber would get a 10% discount, showing as a credit on their bill statement. It'll be a mixture of subscribers, commercial and residential. Anyone can sign up for the clean energy and they would build at the same time that they were receiving subscribers.

RIC has the option to purchase the land from current owners. It would be a 25 year plan and at the end of those 25 years the energy company has the option to renew the energy power or sell.

RIC Energy will comply and do all wetland studies but cannot begin some studies and surveying of land until possibly May 2020. A SEQRA will be completed.

The Solar array will be fixed, facing the south. It will be visible to the community. A visual assessment of the area and project would be helpful for the Planning Board members to visualize

the proposed project. Site Plan Approval for the Town of Knox was reviewed for RIC energy to understand what needs to be done prior to any approval.

The goal upon approval would be to start taking down trees in the winter and construction to begin in the Spring of 2021.

Deb found a draft of previous requirements made by the Planning Board prior to the first solar array project in Knox. Previous requirements to be sent out to all Planning Board members and John from RIC Energy.

Comments from Audience:

Dennis Cyr of 160 Witter Rd: Stated that he is in favor of green energy but wants the Planning Board to be mindful in regards to the way the solar array may affect the characteristic of the town and its appearance.

John from RIC Energy will come back in a few months for a preliminary meeting with the Planning Board after completing all requirements. This will be done prior to the public hearing. Notifications will be sent out to all of the surrounding homes/properties that are adjoining to the proposed project area. The notifications will be sent out by the town of Knox.

With no further questions, comments or concerns, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Deb made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded it and all were in favor.

Next meeting to be held April 9, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tiffiny Snyder Knox Planning Board Secretary