



Town of Knox Planning Board

Established 1822

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Minutes: November 12, 2020

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm via google meet.

Review of October minutes

A few items needed to be corrected or added were noted.

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections, Ed seconded it, all in favor.

Updates from Town Board Meeting

MRD discussion to be continued at next month's meeting.

Continuing education for board members requirement of 4 hours needs to be completed. The classes now are online and easy to complete. Each video is about an hour long and can be viewed at any time once the class is purchased. Board members are to submit their receipts to Tom for reimbursement by the Town. Tom to email a list of classes available.

RIC Energy

John Reagan present to discuss and review updated plans for the Solar Array project at 1688 Thompson Lake Rd.

John Reagan updated the Planning Board members and audience on several plans that were concerns at last month's meeting. John discussed the new landscaping plan to increase the number of plants and species that will be used along the buffer zone. In the application packet presented to Planning Board members a detailed list of these species were added as well as sizing of trees. A guaranteed period, if a plant/tree were to die is 18 months. Concern regarding if a re planted tree dies, what happens? RIC Energy to look into what happens if that re planted tree/plant dies.

RIC Energy met with Al Gaige, request per last month's meeting, and surveyed his land and took pictures. A form of landscaping to be installed to create more of a buffer between Al Gaige's property and the Solar Array project. Tom to meet with Al Gaige to show him a larger view of the updated buffering image which displays his property line and fence.

Concern of the transformers proximity to the road was discussed. The transformers are about 500ft from any roads that might be traveled on a daily basis.

Linda Novello, and audience member asked about who is Knox PV LLC? This is the name given to the Knox solar farm, think of it as a subsidiary to RIC Energy. It was set up for accounting purposes. RIC owns both companies. She is also concerned about the health effects of solar arrays. John Reagan to send a report of health effects to Tom for anyone to review. A storm water and pollution plan has also been created by RIC for any concerns of water drainage problems, which is also a concern of Linda's.

The Planning Board members reviewed the resolution made by the Knox Town board to make the Planning Board lead agency for SEQRA purposes.

Tom made a motion to accept the Knox Town Board's resolution to designate the Knox Planning Board lead agency for SEQRA purposes in the Knox PV LLC Solar Array project and to conduct a public hearing December 10 2020 at 7pm. Ed seconded it, all in favor.

Format for the public hearing was discussed. It is important that RIC present the project first for the audience. RIC Energy to create a power point presentation for anyone that is attending via google meet. An in person public hearing will be determined closer to the meeting date due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. A couple of weeks prior to the meeting John Reagan will send Tom the agenda for the public hearing, which will be posted on the Knox Town website.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8pm. Next meeting to be held December 10 2020 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Snyder Knox Planning Board Secretary