

Testimony of a Public Hearing of the Town of Union Planning Board held relative to Special Use Permit for a Small-Scale Solar Project on July 12, 2022, at 7:52 p.m.

PRESENT: Members present: L. Miller
D. Kudgus
S. McLain
T. Crowley
S. Forster
M. Jaros
K. Rose
C. Curtin, Alternate

Others present: Marina Lane
Keith Liblick
Bill Adee
Chad Kies
Chris Brown
Robert Potochniak

MS. MILLER: We will open the Public Hearing, and I will read the public notice.

The Town of Union Planning Board will conduct a public hearing relative to an application by Renovus Solar for a Special Use Permit for a small-scale solar installation at 921 Hooper Road (Tax Map #125.19-3-13). The solar array will be 9.84 kW (24 panels), consisting of 525 square-feet of array surface area. The ground-mounted residential solar project on less than three-acres requires a special use permit from the Planning Board.

The public hearing will take place on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 7:00 PM or thereafter in the Town Board Meeting Room on the second floor of the Town of Union Office Building located at 3111 East Main Street, Endwell, New York. The application is available for review in the Town of Union Planning Department during normal business hours (8 AM to 4 PM).

Individuals with special needs requiring accommodations may contact the Planning Department at (607) 786-2926 at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled public hearing.

Lisa B. Miller, Planning Board Chair.

MS. LANE: Would you like to explain anything about the project?

MR. LIBLICK: It is a solar project and it is hardly visible from the road. The neighbors to the west have a big line of trees, to the south there is an apartment complex and a big hill so they can't see if from that side pretty much. The neighbor to the east, there are two spots where

the neighbor can see the project, but that neighbor is agreeable to the project and doesn't mind it.

MR. ADEE: No, she doesn't.

MS. MILLER: Does anybody have any questions or comments?

MR. CROWLEY: Why would they not consider putting it on the house? I see a lot of them on houses and I am just curious in this particular case.

MR. LIBLICK: So the solar resource is better where it is. You get more for your money by putting it on the ground facing the sun for more hours. Sometimes the roof is favorable and sometimes it is not. If you have an older roof, you would have to take down that system when that roof needs to be replaced. In addition, every roof needs to be replaced at some point, so that is why we recommend ground systems whenever possible.

MR. CROWLEY: My neighbor has it on his house and I have seen other houses with it on.

MR. ADEE: So that is why I showed him the ground outside, so I don't have to replace it when I do the roof. I have plenty of yard.

MR. JAROS: Is this going to be fenced in?

MR. LIBLICK: No.

MR. JAROS: In our code do we require some sort of fence. I was reading about it earlier today.

MS. LANE: Did you say fence?

MS. MILLER: Yes.

MS. LANE: Not in the small-scale solar projects.

MR. CROWLEY: Is there battery storage with this?

MR. LIBLICK: We install batteries on some of our systems, but this system does not have or need batteries.

MR. CROWLEY: What would be the difference in need or not need for future reference?

MR. LIBLICK: You would never need battery storage with New York laws as they are. The only thing that the batteries could provide for you is service when the grid was down. In this case, the interest is the environmental thing and to save money by not having to pay for the electric bill as it is. So in that case the batteries are not needed.

MS. MILLER: Any other questions?

MR. FORSTER: When you said "not really visible from the road," can you explain that?

- MR. LIBLICK: It is obscured by two very large trees, and it is downhill. The big monster tree that I am talking about is three feet or four feet and if you look in just the right spot at the solar array past the one tree to the next tree, you will see a little bit of the solar array.
- MS. LANE: I would like to point out that it is not as if we are screening a terrible sight. We see solar panels all the time, so I don't think one hundred percent screening of a residential solar project is necessary, or necessarily required.
- MR. ADEE: I have some pictures if you would like to see them from the road.
- MS. LANE: Scott lives just down the road from you so he probably checked you out already. (laughter)
- MS. MILLER: If nobody else has any questions, we will close the public hearing.

Public Hearing concluded: 7:59 p.m.

I, CAROL M. KRAWCZYK, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of a Public Hearing of the Town of Union Planning Board is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my stenographic notes/tape taken at the above time and place.

CAROL M. KRAWCZYK