

Pownal Planning Board Public Hearing for NBD Solar Farm May 19th, 2021

PB Board members attending, Matt St.Cyr, John Bowdren, Jesse Peters, Matt Altieri, Todd Mellin and Town Planner Tony Dater

Public attending, Cody LaPointe, Rich Brereton, Ben Smith from North Star Planning, Steve Thompson from Dewan Assc., Susan Peters, Shawn Tobey from Hoyle Tanner, Mr. Meehan, Marie Wendt, Justin Murphy, Doug Stewart, Jay Raitt, Melissa Jordan, Judy Hilton, Samantha Peikes, Alice Kirkpatrick and Marcia Bowen

Called to Order at 5:34 pm

Shawn Tobey of Hoyle Tanner did an overview of the project with changes made since the Site walk, adding a berm with screening trees on top to the plan, a DEP approved fire road with a pervious road surface designed to stand up to heavy traffic loads like fire trucks and allow water to drain through. Shawn showed pictures from DeWan Associates of before and after images from different angles of how the views look now from abutters and the road and how they will look after screening trees are planted and grow in. Discussed no tree cutting in June/ July because of potential Bat roosting and birthing in trees during those months.

Questions from the Public and Board Members, Acreage of trees removed? about 8 acres.

Acreage of potential tree growth from areas that grow back naturally, about 3-4 acres.

Stormwater permit approved, waiting on DEP tier 3 Permit.

Discussed where the gate to access the property would go, Shawn showed that it is about 200 feet in from the road access and there is room for 2 or 3 fire trucks or emergency equipment to park and be off the Fickett road.

Matt S asked Steve Thompson about planting and screening advice and Steve suggested more variety in the tree species, but commented what they present is adequate. Shawn Tobey mentioned they were open to advice about adjusting the variety of species.

Susan Peters asked how this project fits in with the Town's desire for Rural Character, Matt S answered that the Board was and has discussed this topic and are and have been working to keep abutters and the public in mind with visual aspects such as reduced profile equipment and screening. Tony Dater emphasized how important screening is to the project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm

Respectfully submitted.

John Bowdren

Approved 6-16-21