

Sherburne Town Planning Board  
One Canal tree  
Sherburne, NY 13460  
April, 11, 2023

Regular meeting for the Sherburne Planning Board was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2023 in the Town Office. Present: Holly Crouch, Brian Gully, James Osborn, and Stephanie Staley. Absent: Michael Janitz and Angela Jones. Guests: Eugene Bohnert, Denise Boise, Brian Keenan, Rowena Krum, and Supervisor Charles Mastro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting were not available. March 14, 2023 meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Town Supervisor Charles Mastro called the meeting to order at 7PM and introduced guests and members.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian Keenan, Senior Project Developer, New Energy Equity, distributed notebooks outlining the proposed Solar Garden on the property of Anita Humer on Castle Hill Road in The Town of Sherburne. He entertained questions throughout his presentation and provided clarification.

Among the information he shared is:

All power to be produced in the project will stay local. It will be transferred to NYSEG's Earlville Substation. The substation cannot accept more power than is used locally. Local residents who purchase NYSEG's electricity will be able to apply for discounts on their current rates,

The bifacial solar panels proposed are made of glass/solar cells/glass. They will be 8 feet tall and will rotate east and west to maximize amount of energy collected. 80% of the energy will come from the sun and 20% will be reflected from the ground up. There is no radiation produced; workers can work safely anywhere in the project. Panels will be spaced so workers can walk between the rows of panels.

Panels are glass and aluminum, which are both manufactured in the United States and then exported for assembly.

You must be within 10 feet of panels to hear noise produced.

The Company hopes to enter into a 25 year contract with NYSEG, which can be extended an additional 10 years. After that period of time panels and other equipment would need to be replaced, if contract is extended.

If non-operational for more than 12 months, New Energy is legally required to decommission the project. A bond with an annual inflation rider will be provided by the Company to cover the cost of decommissioning,

The project has a fixed life span. It is designed to revert the land to its original state. Posts are driven into the ground, not imbedded in concrete. No top soil is removed in construction. Vegetation is planted between the panels which will retain quality of farm land.

Among the many questions addressed was the one raised by a neighbor to the proposed Castle Hill Property. Eugene Bohnert asked if the members of the Planning Board were in favor of this project. Supervisor Mastro said that without zoning The Board has no jurisdiction over the project. Assuming there are no environmental concerns raised during the SEQOR process, the Board only has the authority to pass the project to the County Planning level with verification that the SEQOR process has been completed to its satisfaction.

New Energy hopes the project can commence in the spring of 2024.

Mike Janitz, Planning Board Chairman, and Supervisor Charles Mastro have met with representatives from New Equity Energy on the solar project and gone through everything required from them. New Equity has pre-application approval from NYSEG to do up to 4mw. Coming down Route 12 and going up Castle Hill Road there is already a 3 phase power line which goes all the way to Reese Road and then ends. NYSEG has told the Company that the line is outdated and needs to be updated at their expense. If the cost is too high New Equity will cancel the project. New Equity has a 35 year lease with Anita Humer, who owns the proposed 27 acre parcel. Her nephew is her beneficiary. This will be a 10 million dollar project. The Company will be reimbursing Dylan Harris for his legal services,

A copy of the comprehensive report provided by New Energy was given to Town Attorney Dylan Harris. He is reviewing this and will join the Board members and Mr. Keenen at the May 9 Planning Board Meeting to begin the SEQOR process.

Supervisor Mastro indicated that Denise Boise is interested in filling the current vacancy on the Planning Board. Members requested the vote on her membership be delayed until the May 9 Board Meeting when it is anticipated all members will be present.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2023 at 7 PM in the Sherburne Town Building. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Rowena Krum, Acting Secretary