

TOWN OF SOMERS
PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINTUES

JUNE 28, 2012

7:00 PM TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Bradley Pellissier at 7:00 pm. Members present: William Salka, Clifford Bordeaux. Adam Van Wingerden was seated for Greg Genlot. Also present was Jeff Bord, Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

NONE

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. Zoning Referral-Application of Somers Solar Center, LLC, 117 4th Street, Charlottesville, VA for construction of a ground-mounted solar voltaic facility a 488 South Road, Somers, CT.

Nelson Teague, Co-Founder of Helio Sage was present at the meeting to discuss the Solar Center and answer questions related to the project. He also informed the commission that the application for the Special Use Permit for the solar facility has been withdrawn. Mr. Teague explained that subsequent to the last Planning meeting, the town was contacted by the Connecticut Siting Counsel. Helio Sage has been working in correlation with this Counsel since the beginning of the project. The Connecticut Siting Counsel now has jurisdiction over project. The public hearing will still be held July 9, 2012 as an informative meeting for the public.

Mr. Teague answered a few questions from the commission regarding materials used to make panels, how it will affect abutting properties and safety of the solar center. Mr. Teague explained the panels were made of a silicon/sand material combined with some other elements. They are not flammable and are safe. Mr. Teague explained that there is a periodic maintenance and monitoring device 24/7 to check the system. He also said they will coordinate with the local fire and rescue departments to make a plan of action for the project.

Mr. Pellissier stated the town supports the idea of renewable resources. He wants to ensure as the town moves forward in a way where this could be a model to develop standards for where we go as a community.

Helio Sage is now working putting together the petition with a more detailed site plan to send to the Siting Counsel. Jeff Bord will still be working with Mr. Teague on the lot line configuration. It will be an "L" shaped lot. Mr. Teague explained the power purchase agreement signed by CL&P is before PURE for approval. Helio Sage hopes by year end to finish all that work, let the winter go through and begin construction in the spring of 2013.

Mr. Pellissier asked about snow removal. It was explained that since the panels get so hot, snow melts off the panels quickly.

The solar panels have a 35-40 years life span. The contractual obligation with CL&P on this project is 20 years. At the end of the lease, there is a plan to have the panels removed. There be the option to extend the lease, otherwise the panels will be disassembled and moved to another location.

Mr. Teague will put a letter in writing regarding withdrawal of the application and send it to Jeff Bord. Mr. Teague will talk with John Collins from the Zoning Commission regarding the withdrawal of solar center application.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

V. STAFF REPORTS/DISCUSSION

NONE

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-6/14/2012

The date was wrong on the minutes and there was a misspelled word. Changes noted by Julia Sarno, recording secretary.

A motion was made by Clifford Bordeaux to accept minutes as amended. Seconded by William Salka, motion carried. Adam Van Wingerden had to abstain since he was not at the last meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by William Salka at 7:16 to adjourn the regular Planning Commission meeting. Seconded by Adam Van Wingerden, motion carried.