

**Planning Board Meeting
Minutes
October 23, 2020**

Meeting held remotely via Zoom.

Members Present: Judy Eiseman, Lexi Dewey, Leslie Laurie, Anne Stoddard (recording)

Visitors present: Linda Spink

Meeting called to order at 9:04AM

In order to act upon information received and questions raised at the public hearing held on October 19, 2020, the Board met to discuss potential amendments to the proposed solar bylaw to be voted at town meeting on October 24, 2020.

Judy prepared two amendments based on the discussion at the hearing. We reviewed the amendments. We agreed (by a vote of 4 to 0) the G (3) amendment clarifying the language will be introduced at the outset; the amendment for C (2) regarding limitation rather than prohibition will be offered depending upon the tenor of the discussion and amendments that may or may not be offered by others.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Stoddard

Attachment: Proposed amendments for Solar by-law .

Two Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board

1. **Amend Section G (3)** so as to delete the phrase at the end of the first sentence reading : ~~; or Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance.~~ Also, to insert the words “as of the date of the application” following the word “data: in the second sentence so as to read as follows:

G (3) Habitat Impacts: Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations shall not be located on: permanently protected land subject to conservation, preservation, agricultural preservation, and watershed preservation restrictions under MGL. c. 184, §§ 31-33; Priority Habitat and Bio Map 2 Critical Natural Landscape and BioMap 2 Core Habitat mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). ~~; or Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance.~~ Further, the data available as of the date of the application from the Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS) at the University of Massachusetts shall be referenced for use in determining the impact of development on ecological values and integrity using Ecological Integrity Maps (IEI Maps) developed in conjunction with DEP along with other available scientific data relative to the site.

2. **Amend Section C (2)** by deleting the word “~~prohibition of~~” in the second sentence and replacing it with “**limitation on**” so as to read as follows:

(2) Mitigation for Loss of Carbon Sequestration and Forest Habitat:

If forestland is proposed to be converted to a Ground-Mounted Solar Installation the plans shall designate thereon an area of unprotected (meaning, not subject to MGL c. 184, §§ 31-33 or other binding restrictions upon development at time of application) land on the same lot and of a size equal to four times (4X) the total area of such installation. Such designated land shall remain in substantially its natural condition without alteration, including a limitation on commercial forestry/tree cutting not related to the maintenance of the installation, until such time as the installation is decommissioned; except in response to a natural occurrence, invasive species or disease that impacts the trees and requires cutting to preserve the health of the forest. The Special Permit may be conditioned to effectuate and make enforceable this requirement.