



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
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Planning Board:
Ervin Curtis (Board Chair)
Ryan Minikis (Board Vice-Chair)
Gabriel Tomasulo
Robert Nordstrom
Catherine Bendheim

Planning Board

Public Hearing Minutes

Date: May 17th, 2021, 6:00PM

Place: Remote only, Zoom

Hearing Minutes:

Revision: 1

1. Roll call – Members present were Chair Erv Curtis, Ryan Minikis, Catherine Bendheim, Bob Nordstrom, and Gabe Tomasulo. Also present were CEO Terry Brackett, Anna Geneseo, Kenneth Smith, Steven Hocking, Ben Axelman, Darrin Stairs, Sondra Wallace.
2. Call the meeting to order – Chair Erv Curtis called the Public Hearing to order at 6:05PM.
3. Open Public Hearing – Chair Curtis read through the general rules of a town public hearing. Darrin Stairs from Gartley & Dorsky introduced himself and went through the powerpoint discussed at the March Planning Board meeting. He discussed general location, benefits to Solar, and community involvement.
4. Public Discussion of South Thomaston Solar, LLC Application – Resident Ken Smith introduced himself and asked what the noise level would be for the project. Per Stairs, there will be some noise during construction, but far enough away from the road that it will not be disruptive. Smith then asked about potential harmful radiation levels, to which Stairs replied there would be no harmful radiation to humans, these are the same panels that have been used on houses and buildings for decades. There will be minimal tree removal, just to remove some shading blocking the solar panels. Owner Steven Hocking introduced himself and said he researched possible noise and neighbor disruptiveness when initially debating the solar farm. He has worked hard to try to ensure that neighbors to the solar farm will not be disrupted. Resident Sondra Wallace asked for a rough time table of how long the solar panels would last. She also asked how the town's proposed



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solar ordinance will cover this application submitted prior to the establishment of an ordinance. Chair Curtis said the planning board has reviewed ordinance and is monitoring this project in alignment with the proposed ordinances. Axelman said in terms of time frame, the panels and structures are designed to last for decades. With warranties in place, they could operate for upwards of 30-40 years. Minikis reassured Wallace and offered to the town that the full application and supporting documents are filed and can be reviewed at the Town Office. Curtis briefly went through the proposed ordinance requirements, to be discussed further at Thursday's regular planning board meeting.

5. Close Public Hearing - Motion made to close the hearing by Ryan Minikis and seconded by Bob Nordstrom. Vote approved 5-0.
6. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 6:45PM