

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD PLANNING BOARD MEETING

March 6, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Town of Hounsfield Planning Board was called to order by Paul Locy at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Co. Rt. 66. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Roll call was given and members present were: Mel Washburn, Paul Locy, Kelly Harrienger and Les Brooks. Yvonne Podvin was absent.

The minutes for February, 2018 were approved. Mel Washburn made the motion and Paul Locy seconded. All approved.

Nancy Robbins was in attendance. She is requesting a land division. She will be taking 88 acres from a larger piece. She also wants to change the name of ownership for the property from Ron and Nancy Robbins to North Harbor Dairy. She came to the meeting to submit the application.

Agbotic: Two representatives for Agbotic were in attendance. They returned to see if the Board had any more questions or suggestions for the project they spoke about last month.

07-2017 -Tetra Tech- Property located at 20598 Old Rome State Road. Tax Map 82.14-1-21.1

The Public Hearing was opened by Paul Locy.

Town Attorney Dave Renzie gave a short overview of the project. He Stated that this project is a solar facility. The application was submitted last July. They have been waiting for the Town of Hounsfield to amend their Solar law. That has been done and the project is now able to be approved.

Jodi Hunt from Tetra Tech and Kelsey from Forefront Power were in attendance. Jodi gave an overview and update on the project stating that this is a 2 megawatt project that will be on Old Rome State Road. This is a fixed tilt racking project. It is an agricultural land banking project. It will present no issues to wildlife. The land will still be useable for agriculture in the future.

The energy will go to National Grid and provide energy to approximately 350 households per year. They will be connecting into the grid. They informed the group that households in the area are going to be able to subscribe to receive the power.

The hearing was opened up for questions or comments. There were none.

A motion was made to close the public hearing. Paul Locy made the motion with Mel Washburn seconding. The public hearing was closed.

The other agencies involved still need to be informed. 30 days is needed to allow the agencies to respond. There will not be enough time before the next regular meeting so there will be a special meeting held on April 10. The SEQR process will be done at that time. If there is a negative response then the vote on the site plan approval will also be held at that time.

Mel Washburn made a motion to acknowledge that the Planning board accept lead agency application and direct our attorney to notify the other involved agencies so that we can do a coordinated review. Les Brooks seconded the motion. All approved.

This project has been looked at previously. A solar developer wishes to construct 12.2 acres of private land into a ground mounted solar generating facility. At the time the project was originally looked at the Town did not have any solar guidelines. The Planning Board now has a new local law that was filed in December 2017 to help guide this Board and bring this project to completion.

Jodi Hunt asked the Board if they would hold a special meeting if no one else is interested in being lead agency and we get the responses earlier then the next meeting is set up for. The Board responded that they would be willing to do this.

Matt Cooper, Town Engineer, was present he asked a couple of questions about the lease for the property by the owner, and reminded the Board that they needed specifics about the operation and maintenance, decommissioning, a bond, screening, signage, glare and noise issues.

The Board stated that they would come up with a bond amount. The above issues need to be resolved before the building permit is issued.

TetraTech said that they would get all of this information to the Board within two weeks.

Acting Chairperson Locy suggested a workshop be set up so that the Board can go over the questions they still have. It was decided that there would be a workshop on March 28 at 6:00 p.m. It was also mentioned that the Board would have their regular meeting on April 3 and there would be a special meeting for the SEQR review on April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The Zoning Officer stated that the new zoning law is ready and will be passed out at the next meeting. The SEQR packet is also ready and will be passed out at the next meeting. A Guide to Public Hearings was passed out to the Board tonight.

Kelly Harrienger made a motion to adjourn and Les Brooks seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Crandall