

TOWN OF BATAVIA PLANNING BOARD
Public Hearing, January 19, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
Meeting ID: 957 9958 9718
Password: 605901
Phone: 1-646-558-8656 US (New York)

Because of the Novel Corona Virus Pandemic and state and federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive order 202.1 issued March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meeting Law, the Town of Batavia Planning Board meetings was held electronically via ZOOM video conference/call conference instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Town of Batavia Website.

PRESENT: Chairman Kathy Jasinski, Paul Marchese, Paul McCullough, Don Partridge, Jeremy Liles, Jonathan Long, Steve Tanner and Brooks Hawley.

ALSO ATTENDING: Jerry Leone Civil Engineer with Cypress Creek, Geoff Johnson Cypress Creek, Kathleen Antonelli, Tim Morrow, Kaelyn Roche, Mary McCabe Skelton, Nancy Brach, David, Todd Hanney, Jim Taravella Steve Mountain Town Engineer, Dan Lang Building Inspector, Bruce Gerould Building Inspector, John Della Penna ZBA Chairman, Greg Post Town Supervisor, Sharon White Town Board Member, Patti Michalak Town Board Member, Dan Underhill Deputy Town Supervisor, Teressa Morasco Town Clerk, Sarah Sauka Moderator, Alecia Kaus of Video News Service, Brian Quinn of The Batavia Daily News and Secretary Kim McCullough.

ABSENT: Lou Paganello.

Planning Board Member Don Partridge will not be participating in the Public Hearing.

Alternate Member(s): Steve Tanner will be acting in Don Partridge's place.

Public Hearing announcements were read regarding the applications for Special Use Permits by Trousdale Solar LLC for the installation of an 18.2-acre, 5 M W ground mounted commercial solar system and a 19.6-acre, 4 M W ground mounted commercial solar system, both located at 5117 Ellicott St. Rd. in the Town of Batavia.

Chairman Kathleen Jasinski opened the floor to the public after an introduction on the solar projects were given by Jerry Leone of Cypress Creek. Both of these are community solar projects through National Grid. It basically means a discounted electric supply can be made available to electric consumers within National Grids local service territory. They are proposing a pollinator friendly seed mix. They are also proposing additional visual screening. The projects are located southeast of the city of Batavia on Ellicott Street. These are 2 separate projects with separate driveways and interconnectors. These are both tracking systems, the tracking system is more efficient than a fixed system. Tracking systems follow the movement of the sun. A document has been given to the Chairman with the hopes the public will have access to the document. Mr. Leone would like to propose that a more formal written response be done for the comments that are raised this evening.

Chairman Jasinski stated guidelines have been set up and that Sarah Sauka is the moderator who will be asking if you want to speak. You will be given 3-5 minutes to state your concerns and you will need to state your name for the secretary. There will be no questions or answers this is strictly for input for the Planning Board. Don Partridge who is the property owner is a member of this board, he will not be participating tonight and Steve Tanner will be acting in Don Partridge's place.

Listed below are the individuals who wished to speak.

Kathleen Antonelli – Opposed to the solar farm going directly behind our houses – also will a decision be made tonight. Chairman Jasinski stated there would be no decision made tonight. She is concerned with how close this is to our homes, why is it so big, has many questions on the efficiency of it as we have many gray days, there is no sunlight. Does not see the advantages for the residents in terms of the energy or what we get out of the whole thing. She also thinks it will depreciate the value of her home, if she does need to sell her house. Hard to market homes with the big solar panel there.

Tim Morrow – Stated that these solar fields keep popping up all over Genesee County, how come we are not taking into consideration the looks of them or the property value. He stated a good example would be State Street Road and one was put up in front of the houses, you got a fence, you got solar panels, how come are there no berms or trees or some type of synthetic to give it a more natural look. Mr. Morrow is concerned about this stuff leaching into the fields. No one has come up with what it is doing to the value of the property and I don't think anybody has put that on the table. Make sure they are not leaching into the aquifer. Does not think that the Planning Board
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is looking at the full picture for fifteen years down the road. Would like the Planning Board to look into it to make it more friendly looking. Value of the home, what is the value of my home going to be.

Nancy Brach – Sent a video, article, map and email over to the Planning Board. Do berms and how close can it be to the houses. Kathy read the letter that was provided by Nancy regarding renewable energy. Nancy commented that there is a lot of information that does not really get out there and solar and wind are renewable energies and everyone thinks they are just wonderful and its green and its low cost, but it costs more than a lot of other things that are not being publicized.

Todd Hanney – Is the Planning Board going to seek, in writing, assurances from National Grid that on a peak sunny day when they are laying down 9 plus megawatts of power on the little power line in front of my house that I am not going to have any voltage irregularities or other problems, is National Grid going to give me that in writing. He already has a line monitor so he will keep an eye himself. Who is liable if there are damages and what not, if there are voltage spikes on this line? The Board should seek information from an outside party and not Cypress Creek about who is responsible for any problems that arise from this. He supports the other neighbors. Has questions about the grid connection on the relatively small rural feeder line, has questions about the property value and it just looks like a money grab.

Chairman Jasinski thanked all who participated and let all know that the Planning Board has been working on this with the Town staff for several months. There is an environmental SEQR that will be coming up and will then consider a Special Use Permit.

Mr. Leone thanked all and provided another slide for visual impacts proposing visual screening areas they will be on the western end, middle and eastern end. These landscape buffers will provide screening will include evergreens and shrubs.

Both Public Hearings were closed at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim McCullough
Secretary

Kathleen Jasinski
Chairman