

TOWN OF BATAVIA PLANNING BOARD
Public Hearing, February 2, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
Meeting ID: 969 8516 8120
Password: 401761
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, Jonathan Long, Steve Tanner and Brooks Hawley.

ALSO ATTENDING: Jim Taravella Engineer of LaBella Associates, David Cuizynski, Kaelynn Roche of Batavia Solar, Paul Williams Operations Manager for LandPro, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Janice Smith, Tim Morrow, Dan Lang Building Inspector, John Della Penna ZBA Chairman, Sharon White Town Board Member, Teressa Morasco Town Clerk, Sarah Sauka is Host for the Zoom Meeting, Mike Pettinella of the Batavian, Alecia Kaus of Video News Service, and Secretary Kim McCullough.

ABSENT: Lou Paganello and Jeremy Liles.

Alternate Member(s): Steve Tanner and Brooks Hawley will both be voting.

Public Hearing announcement was read regarding the application for a Special Use Permit by Batavia Solar LLC for the installation of a 1.65 MWAC ground mounted community solar system at 99 Med Tech Drive in the Town of Batavia.

Chairman Kathleen Jasinski opened the floor to the public after an introduction on the solar project was given by Jim Taravella, Engineer of LaBella Associates. Mr. Taravella gave an overview of the project. This will be a 1.65-Megawatt AC Solar Array and will be installed on vacant parcel. The parcel is in a Planned Unit District, the parcel is about 7.95 acres of which 5.63 acres will be fenced in for this solar array. The installation of this solar array will be approximately 4,500 modules using a fixed access racking system. There will be a 50-foot front setback, 30-foot side setback and a 40-foot rear setback.

Chairman Jasinski stated there were no written comments or phone calls on this project. Sarah Sauka is the host, she stated that if you want to speak unmute yourself, say your name and she will put you on the list to speak who will be asking if you want to speak.

Tim Morrow – He wanted to know if Bank Street Road was to North or West. Then he wanted to know if it was College Road. Mr. Morrow stated he was just trying to figure out the print out that was shown to all by Mr. Taravella. He wanted to know if the house that was in the print out was Michalak's. Mr. Taravella stated that the house is owned by the Wood Family. Mr. Morrow wanted to know if they had been notified about this coming in and would they like to look at it or is it their land you are putting this on. Mr. Taravella deferred to Kaelynn Roche of Batavia Solar to answer. She stated that the owner of the land is the Genesee County Economic Development Center and that Batavia Solar LLC has been in contact with the homeowner of the house. Chairman Jasinski stated that all the neighbors were sent a letter and that if they wished to speak, they would have been here tonight. Mr. Morrow stated that he is looking out for the Town and Community, because of the situation out by his house and if they went to sell that they might lose their value of this property. He went on to ask if there would be any berms or some trees to kind of put this more natural. Mr. Taravella stated at this stage they have not put in any screenings but it is typical for a screening plan to be implemented as the project progresses. Mr. Morrow also wanted to know if there is anything going along College Road for screening. Dan Lang wanted clarify something and it should answer some of the questions, he also wanted everyone to know that Mr. and Mrs. Wood are attending this meeting, he also stated that the Town of Batavia has always and will always require certain specifications for any solar, one of them

being a decommissioning bond, and that the Town Planning Board has requires and requested trees and berms to get it as natural as possible in accordance with their code. Mr. Lang also stated that certain vegetation be placed underneath any solar panel that will help increase the bee population for farming purpose. Chairman Jasinski stated that this is only a hearing to get input from the public. Mr. Morrow stated that he does not want another State Street project to occur in the Town again.

Michelle Wood – Her and Bob are the landowners of the house, they would really like a berm put along the back of it so protects their house. They are okay with it being a solar farm, when it was being looked at for other uses they would prefer a solar farm over a cement industrial building. They would also like to have them come to them with all ideas and what they are planning to do. Mr. Taravella would like to with the permission of Batavia Solar have the opportunity to share with them what they are doing as they go along.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim McCullough
Secretary

Kathleen Jasinski
Chairman