

The Special meeting of the Groveland Town Board was held on Wednesday June 22, 2022 at the Town Hall.

Present: Bill Devine, Supervisor; Steve Atterbury, Councilmember; Amy Hunter, Councilmember and John Macauley, Councilmember

Other Town Officials: T. Tozier, PB & ZBA Secretary, R. Maxwell, Code Enforcement Officer; M. Raschi, Planning Board member; R. Clymo, Planning Board member; P. Dolan, ZBA member

Absent: Sandra Bean, Deputy Supervisor and Councilmember

Others Present: M. Underhill Livingston County Planning Board; M. Dunn, Livingston County Solar Coordinator and members of the community

Supervisor Devine called the meeting to order @ 6:35 p.m.

Old/New Business:

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS LOCAL LAW # OF 2022 TO REPLACE #2-2017- DISCUSSION FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD'S

ADVISORY COMMENTS- Supervisor Devine stated he called for the special meeting as Mary Underhill from Livingston County Planning Board was able to be present to review the advisory comments along with Code Officer Maxwell to clarify questions the board had to the law as there were some great comments at the Public Hearing on June 9th. Supervisor gave the floor to M. Underhill who introduced M. Dunn, Livingston County's Solar Coordinator.

Mr. Dunn provided the board with a map of the town showing how the town now has 3 phase electric that covers approximately 42 miles.

Councilmember Hunter inquired about the ability to tie into three phase line and Mr. Dunn replied within 500 feet.

M. Underhill stated that when solar first began it was not a feasible option but now due to the expanse of the utilization of substations they are able to go further into the communities than originally thought when solar first became discussed.

M. Underhill discussed how at a County level they would know if a farm would be interested in utilizing their property for solar prior to a municipality due to Ag and Markets involvement and County notifications requirement for AG. Currently the lands with statewide farmland importance are not identified in Groveland's law. It would be a recommendation for the town to have the Solar Law refer to local regulations such as the Town's Zoning Law and Farm Land Protection Plan.

A question was asked by a community member what benefit does the town see from this local law. Supervisor responded that not only to ensure the law fits the community as but host benefits for energy would be the hope.

M. Underhill and M. Dunn discussed first right energy and Host community benefits they have seen in other municipalities with the community members that were present for the meeting.

Another question was asked of what do the studies show of the effect to the values of the properties and home values with solar next to these properties.

M. Underhill stated that is dependent on where you get your study from, the solar company side may say no issue however another side may state poor.

M. Underhill stated to the board that if the town were to have the 94c process where the State were to come in and look at our law and the town wanted to discuss a point as it pertains to solar, if it is not specific in the law you cannot discuss it.

M. Raschi inquired if the town could allow only certain areas for solar.

M. Underhill stated that in some municipalities they have allowed only in certain areas.

Another point M. Underhill added was to ensure that the board may wish to review in the law is following any major “event” that a review of the panels is necessary.

Discussion occurred regarding conservancy and land use and M. Underhill provided maps of lands with easements that pertain to properties within Conservancy.

Discussion of lot coverage occurred and interpretation as it pertains to Solar Law

M. Underhill stated the advisory comments are such that as advisory the board review them and decide what fits for Groveland.

A question by a community member regarding dark sky compliancy.

Code Officer Maxwell explained what that was in the law and the requirements.

M. Underhill stated she would review as well regarding emergency lighting.

Following the in-depth and very informative discussion as solar is ever changing Supervisor Devine thanked everyone for their time.

A motion by Councilmember Atterbury and seconded by Councilmember Hunter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Kimberly Burgess, Town Clerk
Town of Groveland
Dated: June 22, 2022