

To the Wareham Planning Board and The Historical commission
From Eric Lintala

June 13, 2022

I wish to present three important past facts then present new information pertaining to cultural, historical, and archaeological evidence.

On November 7th, 2021 Save The Pine Barrens, inc submitted an important document to the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Commission. This document addressed the site plan review application for the Fearing Hill Solar Project., stating that the application is incomplete because it fails to address Article 12, Performance Standards of the Wareham Zoning By-Laws. Understanding that this project is exempt from Article 12-1218.5 under 1216 exemptions, does not support the fact that there could very well be evidence of cultural, historic or archaeological evidence based on what has been presented to this board thus far from individuals and organizations. Think about what more could be discovered if an actual survey were conducted. I hate to think what might be destroyed if this project goes through.

I submitted to the board on november 22, 2021 a document "The Historic And Archaeological Resources of Southeastern Massachusetts, A Framework For Preservation Decisions, From The Massachusetts Historical Commission", our state agency. It also contained, along with detailed information, a map titled "Contact Period Native Trails", four trails running north-south and two running east-west (see Item#1). When overlaid with a present day map of Wareham these trails/ancient ways clearly are shown to exist on Fearing Hill. It also shows that Fearing Hill Road is an ancient trail. There All connected.

From the web site www.gov Massachusetts Heritage landscape Inventory, and I quote "Ancient Indian Route- The ancient Indian Route through the Weweantic watershed was also listed as a significant cultural resource, which has not been well documented and is threatened by development" end quote.

The Following Are New Investigations:

Further proof can be read in an article in the Wareham Week dated June 10th, 2010 titled "Tracing our Footsteps" by Cyrus Moulton. It starts with a map clearly showing Fearing Hill Road marked in red (see Item#2), the caption reads, quote "A map from 1795 shows the original Wampanoag Trail, traced in red." Also in the article, quote " In a presentation Monday, June 21, society members Mack Phinney and Barbara Bailey traced the Wampanoag Indian Trail through Wareham, beginning at the Rochester line at the intersection of County Road and Fearing Hill Road, and following all the way until it split just before crossing into Bourne." end quote.

Further investigation discovered US Geological Survey Maps dating 1938, 1942, 1949, 1962, 1977, all showing the same trails on Fearing Hill, all potential ancient ways, and interestingly all these maps also show the cart path as double dashed lines and designated in there legends as an unimproved road (see Item#3).

In there Site Application under Exsisting Conditions there is no mention at all about any evidence or possible evidence pertaining to cultural, historical or archaeological material. What is mentioned and I quote "Exsisting walking trails are located throughout the site primarily in a north-south direction" end quote. Only one trail, or as its been refered to as a cart path, shows up on there site plan map, "Exsisting Conditions Plan", Sheet 2 of 7 (see Item#4) Every mark and line on the map is described in the Legend, except his major trail/cart path, which shows as a double dashed line, it has no mention at all. On there site plan under the General Notes item #9 and #10 It mentions the area does not lie within an estamated habitat of rare wildlife or rare species and does not lie within an area of critical enviornmental concern. But it does not mention anything about lying in an area of no cultural, historical or archaeological concerns.

The images I have provided clearly shows the Cart Path. It has obviously been there a long time by the way it is deeply ruttet and no more then six feet wide (see Item#5). This cart path intersects with the ancient trails coming up from Fearing Hill Road as I have previously shown on several USGS maps. The cart path starts at the southeast corner of the proposed solar property on Fearing Hill Road. It travels in a northwest direction as it reaches the high point midway up the hill, it then vears north, becoming one with the ancient trail, where it slowly starts to decend on the north side of the hill. The cart path ends and continues as an ancient trail that still exsists, moving west till it ends at the rail road tracks. Interestingly directly across from where this trail ends is Mr David Moretti's property where the ancient trail that has been described by his bank lawyer picks up.

Another piece of evidence for the ancient ways comes from an email to Ms Annie Hayes dated January 10, 2022 from Mr David Moretti who lives on Helen st which abutts the proposed solar property in the northwest corner (see Item#6/emails). Quote " December 1989. While having the house built on Helen St. West Wareham we had an unexpected visit from a lawyer for Plymouth Bank. Sole reason was the placement of the structure on the lot. They would not fund my mortgage if the structure was on an Acient Way that ran through the property. Also if the structure was to close to the ancient way, where an addition to the structure as a breezeway or garage would impede use of the Ancient Way/Pre Civil War Carriage Path.....Approximately June 1990, while having on the property a freetown selectmen, he agreed with the banks assessment of the property and was a rite of way for anyone born before the civil war to pass through the area. The selectmen was also adamant that it was also a rite of way for indigenous peoples in the area." end quote.

When it comes to finding any ceremonial stone landscapes there is one location that stands out as a purposeful -boulder- placed -configuration (see Item#7). The images I have provided show a series of six granite boulders aprox 22" to 24" in diameter, each aprox 6 to 8 feet apart, and in a streight line. Located in an area thick with trees and brush, aprox halfway up the south side of the hill in a north-south direction. This line of boulders seems to be in direct alignment with the cart path where it vears north continuing on the ancient trail. Being thick with trees and brush only the six boulders were observed at this time, more seem likely to be found south and north of there present location.

The Wareham Historical Committee, Who supports the protection and saving Fearing Hill from this solar development, was asked to identify a resourse to protect. The question being, is there a trail through this property or some other historic or archaeological resource. I believe there has been more then enough evidence provided by individuals and organizations to warrant more investigation and to question weather this solar project is endangering Wareham's cultural, historical and archaeological resources.