To: Wareham Planning Board 3-23-2023

RE: 7-20 Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.-27Charge Pond Road

 9-20 Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.-150 Tihonet Road

From: Eric Lintala

 Resident Wareham, Ma

The document/report “Best Practices at the End of the Photovoltaic System Performance Period” by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, is an excellent report that the Planning Board would find very useful in understanding the many nuances that goe into the end life/decommissioning of solar arrays. https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/78678.pdf

In relation to present, and past, solar arrays being proposed in the town of Wareham some questions arise in reading this report as seen under the “Refurbishing and Repowering the System” sections. Quote “Necessary repairs often include replacing failed modules with compatible PV modules, replacing inverter parts or perhaps entire inverters”. When it becomes necessary to replace a major component such as an inverter, solar panel or storage battery, is it not necessary that some kind of permit from the town be required? For example, the same kind of permit necessary when replacing an old deck or garage? To make sure that the replacement part is the same in relation to safety standards, materials its made of, and its electrical usage/output? To prevent any possible major changes or upgrades from the original plans?

So there are questions as the solar technology keeps changing, new and improved components are created almost everyday. I have not heard any discussion from solar representatives how this may play into ten or twenty year old solar arrays where the making of profitable electricity is the goal. Older fields with less efficient components make less money. Once a solar field goes on line can major upgrades be made without any permit by the town?