

Wareham Planning Board
Mike King, Chair
Ken Buckland, Town Planner
Jonathan Dickinson, Assistant Planner

March 23, 2023

RE: 27 Charge Pond Road (PB #07-20) & 150 Tihonet Road (PB #09-20)

Gentlemen and Members of the Planning Board,

The request for an extension of the permits on the 27 Charge Pond Road (#7-20) and 150 Tihonet Road (#9-20) should be denied in order to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of the citizens of Wareham. The solar industry and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are rushing projects toward approval without all of the particulars in place. The latest letter from the proponent regarding these projects dated 3/21/2023 still asserts in the first paragraph of the decommissioning plan that waste material from the site will be taken to the “nearest transfer station.” The Wareham/Carver transfer station is nearest but certainly not able to handle such waste. It is details such as this that make me cringe at what else is poorly defined in the proposal.

*This Decommissioning Estimate has been prepared by New Leaf Energy in an attempt to predict the cost associated with the removal of the proposed solar facility. The primary cost of decommissioning is the labor to dismantle and load as well as the cost of trucking and equipment. All material will be removed from the site, including the **concrete equipment pads, which will be broken up at the site and hauled to the nearest transfer station.***

There are no assurances that these projects will ever get built as originally proposed because the technology – both good and bad – is evolving too rapidly. It is common sense to deny these requests without prejudice. Later, once the atmosphere has settled and there is no longer a rush to create heatsinks and destroy forests and wetlands for solar, applications can then be resubmitted with updated technology which is appropriate for the sites selected.

Extensions on these permits, which have already been extended beyond the original deadline, should be denied. There is no reason to continue holding the citizen’s health and safety hostage for private gain from industrial uses, which may or may not, be eventually constructed in residential areas.

Please include this letter as part of the public’s comment on these projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

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