

## 2021 Special Town Meeting Article

### **Warrant Article:**

Identifier: (to be determined by office: \_\_\_\_\_) Article # \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** **Amendment to Solar By-Laws**

### **Warrant Article:**

To see if Town Meeting will vote to amend the Wareham Zoning By-Laws, section 590, Solar Energy Generation Facilities, as follows:

Amend subsection 594.1.1 to read:

1. Be sited on a parcel of at least three (3) acres in size (no less than 130,680 square feet), and no more than ten (10) acres in size (no more than 435,680 square feet). The portion of the parcel used for solar generation facilities must have been previously cleared of trees for a period of at least five (5) years prior to the date of submission of the project for approval. Aerial photos that are date-time stamped or come from a government source may be used to show the time of clearing. The appropriate reviewing board will have the sole discretion in determining compliance with this standard.

Or to take any other action relative thereto.

### **Motion:**

I move that the Town vote to amend the Wareham Zoning By-Laws in regard to Solar Energy Generation Facilities, subsection 594.1.1 to read:

1. Be sited on a parcel of at least three (3) acres in size (no less than 130,680 square feet), and no more than ten (10) acres in size (no more than 435,680 square feet). The portion of the parcel used for solar generation facilities must have been previously cleared of trees for a period of at least five (5) years prior to the date of submission of the project for approval. Aerial photos that are date-time stamped or come from a government source may be used to show the time of clearing. The appropriate reviewing board will have the sole discretion in determining compliance with this standard.

**Explanation:**

The Wareham Zoning By-Laws regarding to the development of ground-mounted solar energy facilities were put in place at a time when solar farm development was just beginning. The 2014 State guidelines and model zoning regulations have been closely followed in our by-laws. These were designed to encourage solar farm development.

Wareham now has 19 solar farms. It is time to slow down this type of development so that more recent guidance regarding the unintended ecological damage of inappropriately sited facilities can be incorporated into Wareham's By-Law.

This article is intended to have immediate impact on the large scale clear cutting of forests to accommodate large ground mounted solar energy facilities. It is intended to encourage more appropriate siting of facilities.

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**Submitted By:** Citizen's Petition / Nancy McHale

Phone Number 617-966-4386 or Email: nlmchale@verizon.net

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference Information:** Wareham Zoning By-Laws

[https://www.wareham.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf5146/f/uploads/2018\\_fall\\_tm\\_zoning\\_by-law.pdf](https://www.wareham.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf5146/f/uploads/2018_fall_tm_zoning_by-law.pdf)

**Petition Article Inserted by:** \_\_\_\_\_