

**WAREHAM SOLAR BY-LAW STUDY COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MINUTES
AT PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING MEETING REGARDING ZONING ARTICLES
Monday March 28, 2022
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Place: Room 320 Multi-Service Center
48 Marion Road
Wareham, MA 02571**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by Planning Board Chairperson Mike King at 6:00 PM.

The Committee Presentation began at approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes into the Planning Board Meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Nancy McHale (Chairperson)
Carl Schulz (Clerk)
Denise Wolk
Jim Eacobacci, ZBA rep
Jacqui Nichols

Members Absent: Ronald Besse, ConCom rep

Also present: Ken Buckland, Director of Planning
Aaron Shaheen, Assistant Planner
Members of the Wareham Planning Board
Charley Rowley, Consulting Engineer
Jim Munise, Member Board of Selectmen
Members of the Community

3. PRESENTATION TO THE PLANNING BOARD

Chairperson McHale reviewed the work of the Committee and presented an overview of the proposed warrant articulated. The changes / updates to the current by-law were noted and an emphasis was made on how the proposed by-law protects the health, welfare and safety of the Town residents and the improved controls on future project to ensure the best siting in Town. Ms. McHale also reviewed how the proposed by-law enhances and expands the protections to environmentally sensitive areas in Town.

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Members of the Committee offered their comments and support of the proposal. It was noted and emphasized that this by-law needs to be considered a “living” document and revised as the laws change and as the technology changes.

Mr. Buckland provided his input, as advisor to the Committee, and noted that the Board worked diligently.

Mr. Rowley questions siting in the Strip Commercial zone. He also discussed the CMR performance standards included in the by-law language ... he wanted to ensure we had reviewed for any inconsistencies.

Ms. Quirk noted her 40-year career in the energy industry. She felt that the proposed by-law represented a good step forward and covers issues that the Town has faced in the past.

Chairperson McHale also noted that the Committee recommended that the Select Board form a standing committee to continue to study and review changes in the renewable energy industry. The Select Board did not support the recommendation.

Mr. Corbet asked if the Committee considered siting solar on land under the power transmission grid or over the gas lines. It was noted that this land use is not specifically prohibited ... however the land owner and the utility companies would need to pursue that use.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Linda Rinta (former Committee Member) presented her input and emphasized the concerns of the small farmers in Town. She emphasized that ground-mounted solar should be considered a tool to respond to climate change. She also noted that solar power generation is the only generation tool whose impact can be erased. She also noted that referring to the maps referenced by the Committee did not provide clear and unchanging guidance to developers. She also noted that the permitting process is still unclear.

Ms. Meg Sheehan (sp) from Save the Pine Barrens spoke. She noted that the current Commonwealth laws are being adjudicated at the Supreme Judicial Court. She noted the concerns about large-scale strip mining that have occurred as part of

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solar projects. She strongly urged the Board to exercise its powers to prevent strip mining.

5. PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

MOTION: Motion made and seconded for Planning Board support of the warrant article.

Motion passed (5-0-0)

6. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

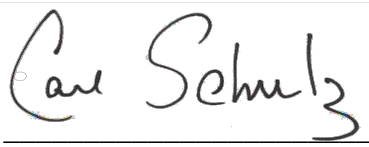
Place: **ZOOM**

Date signed: _____

Date Signed

By Carl Schulz, Apr 27, 2022 at 10:14

Attest: _____



Clerk Wareham Solar Study Committee

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: _____

Date Submitted

By Carl Schulz, Apr 27, 2022 at 10:14