

**MONTHLY MEETING
TOWN OF POMPEY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday May 19, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
(Virtual/Live Event)**

Members:

Frank Erwin (Chairman)
Adam Scalisi
Craig Dennis
Pauline Drexler

Phil George
Stan Gorman
Martha Viglietta
Kathy Bertuch
John Herrington

Updates

- a) Stan informed the committee that the Tower information is a work in progress. Additionally, T-Mobile is installing an antenna array.
- b) Solar overlay law is in the process of being rewritten.
- c) Several comments on Earth Day. All perceived the event as very successful.

Current Projects

- a) Review of Pompey Community Solar by Pivot Energy.
 - a) The committee has considered the request of Pivot Energy to develop a community solar project on Sweet Road (Tax ID 012.-01 -3.1) in the Town (Project). In accordance with the Local Law 1 of the Town of Pompey 2021, this project is considered a Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems project. Per said local law, the ECC is charged with delivering their review comments to the Town Board upon review of the project application.
 - b) As part of our review the following documents were considered:
 - a) *Project summary and request for Solar Overlay District creation, Gordon Woodcock, Director of Project Development, July 6, 2021*
 - b) *Final concept site plan as submitted to the Town Planning Board on October 15, 2021*
 - c) *Parcel Boundary and Zoning District map*
 - d) *Project Site Topography map*
 - e) *Surrounding Land Use and Structures map*
 - f) *Preliminary Viewshed Analysis with Topographical and Aerial Background map*

- g) *Chapter 165-9.2 of the Town of Pompey Code, Solar Energy Systems Overlay District*
 - h) *The approved language of the Resolution of the Planning Board dated December 20, 2021 with comments presented as “Exhibit A to Minutes of the February 21, 2022 Planning Board meeting.*
 - i) *Solar Energy Systems: Draft Overlay District Law – response to community feedback memo, Chris Carrick, CNY RPDB Energy Program Manager, February 23, 2021*
- c) After reviewing the above identified documents and an open discussion the committee has identified the following concerns:
- a) WETLANDS: As presented on the overall site plan submitted to the Town Board, the solar array appears to not meet regulatory setback requirements for delineated wetlands located on the North-West corner of the project.
 - b) VIEWSHED ASSESSMENT: The preliminary viewshed assessment provided in the application is insufficient to fully assess the impact of the proposed project from neighboring properties, roadways and commercial establishments. The application states that “Pivot Energy will conduct a visual assessment to model impacts on public roadways and adjacent properties. It is not clear that the viewshed assessment will meet the definition of “viewshed assessment” as provided in the Town Master Plan.
 - c) VEGETATIVE BUFFERS: The application lacks sufficient detail to assess the effectiveness of the buffer planting/screening plan. Pivot Energy has indicated that it will work with the community to ensure buffer/screening needs are adequately addressed according to local standards and expectations. The concern is that Pivot Energy may allow community input to weigh too heavily in development of the final planting/screening plan. The community does not possess the expertise necessary to develop viable planting plans that address the specific needs and conditions across the site. A detailed vegetative maintenance plan including a schedule for assessing and replacing dead, diseased and underperforming specimens over the life of the proposed project is not addressed in the application.
 - d) FENCING: Additional information is needed to understand the full aesthetic impact of the project fencing plan including: a clear definition of “agricultural-style” fencing; the placement and use, if any, of earthen berms; and, the use of fence-top razor or barbed wire.
 - e) SOLAR PANEL MAINTENANCE: Broken panels may present an environmental concern as they contain lead and cadmium. A detailed maintenance plan for addressing broken or defective panels, including a cleanup plan that minimizes the potential for hazardous

materials to contaminate the surrounding soil and/or groundwater is not addressed in the application.

Open Discussion

Chairman to email meeting agenda to members one week in advance of our monthly meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday June 16, 2022, at 7:00

FSE/fse