

TOWN OF BATAVIA PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING, MAY 16, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Kathy Jasinski, Gordon Offhaus, Don Partridge, Paul McCullough, Lou Paganello, and Jon Long

ALSO ATTENDING: Steve Mountain, Bruce Gerould, Dan Lang, Secretary Brittany Witkop, Sharon & Paul White, Tim Ahrens of Forefront Power and Jodi Hunt of Tetra Tech, Jim Krencik for The Daily News, John Battaglia of Ensol, Project Engineer for Fleet, Debbie Gawron, President of Fleet, Sydney Clark, Employee of Fleet, Dan Compitello of Cypress Creek Renewables for Muckdog Solar, Don Young Esq. for Muckdog Solar, Mike Stanton, Muckdog Solar Project Manager, David Ciurzynski of Manning, Squires and Hennig for Mercy EMS, Steve Tanner and Bill Schutt for Mercy EMS. Also several member of public attended and a sign-in sheet was passed around. Some of the public signed and others would not.

ABSENT: Members Paul Marchese and Jeremy Liles

Alternate member will vote.

FOREFRONT POWER - SOLAR FARM, SPECIAL USE PERMIT - CONSTRUCT AN 11 ACRE SOLAR FARM ON OAK ORCHARD/STATE STREET ROAD.

Land is zoned agriculture/residential, tax map # 4-1-16. Exact address is 8053 Oak Orchard Road, 82 acres, of which 11 acres would be used for the solar farm which would take up approximately 13% of the land.

Tim Ahrens of Forefront Power and Jodi Hunt of Tetra Tech presented the board with information on both projects. At this time Forefront Power's home office is based in San Francisco, California, and they have over 1,000 projects in 23 states. No zoning variances are necessary. Power generation will be 2 mW.

Some key points are:

- Tetra Tech goes through a constraints mapping process to establish where to place the project to avoid negative environment impact. They look at all aspects of the area when deciding where to place the solar farm.
- There is a very small amount of concrete on the site for the transformer and inverter pad. (13x30 ft.)
- Gravel access road (15 ft. wide) via Call Parkway
- Fencing is placed around the site (6 ft. plus 1 foot of barbed wire to equal 7 ft height)
- Panels are 3.5'W x 6.5'H and are 9 across by 2 high
- Racking is 8-10 ft. high
- The panels are south facing with a 25 degree tilt for both sites.
- Grass trimming and proper maintenance will be hired out.
- Both areas will be monitored remotely.
- Panels are anti-glare.
- Two rows of evergreens will be planted along State Street Road to provide better visual for residents.

Benefits of Solar:

*Renewable source of energy brought to grid and it is clean energy.

*Quiet

*Low traffic impact

*Land banking or preservation where the land can easily revert back to be used for farming or other uses.

Questions were posed by public:

1. Dan Voltura of Bennett Height asked about the impact of snow from the west because a snow fence used to run along that part of the road, so will the evergreens help? Steve Mountain said yes, they will be helpful.

2. April Connors of Bennett Heights asked if the land had been surveyed and if waterfall will be an issue. Per Tim Ahrens of Forefront, yes, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan was done and ground water flows have been studied

3. Paul White of Bennett Heights asked how long this project would remain on the site. Per Tim Ahrens it will be a 20-year project with two, 5-year renewable terms. Then everything is removed and the land will be left as it was originally.

4. Jill Halpin of Bennett Heights had a question about the placement of panels and evergreens that will be planted. The panels are:

- Panels are 3.5'W x 6.5'H and are 9 across by 2 high
- Racking is 8-10 ft. high
- The panels are south facing with a 25 degree tilt for both sites.

The evergreens that are planted will be 4-6 ft. high. She said she would like to see deer resistant evergreens planted if possible.

5. Paul White of Bennett Heights ask about the space between the evergreens and State Street Road. It will be left as is or farmed. There will be a six foot fence plus an extra foot of barbed wire around the entire solar farm.

The public hearing was closed at approximately 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Jasinski
Chairman

Brittany Witkop
Secretary