

Town of Hoosick
Public Hearing/Special Meeting
Monday August 24, 2015 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Supervisor Mark Surdam, Bruce Patire, Dave Sutton, Jeff Wysocki, Jenn Hyde

Legal Notice Publication: Public Hearing Notice was published in the Eagle on Aug. 20, 2015.

Purpose of Meeting:

1. To discuss a Town Board Variance Request for a sign that does not conform to the Town's sign law is needed for Brown's Brewery sign placement, located on a small island of Rte 22 and Factory Hill Rd in North Hoosick .
2. Solar Farms

Motion to Open the Public Hearing for Brown's Brewery

Sutton made the motion, Wysocki seconded, all ayes carried.

People to be Heard

Penny Acree: in favor of the sign placement for Brown's.

The Board will have a resolution ready at the next regular meeting, Sept. 14th allowing the sign placement through a Zoning Variance.

Solar Farms - Discussion

Surdam: Currently there are 5 pending applications for Solar Farms. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Solar Farm regulations and become more knowledgeable with their set up and the effects on Our community. Received information from NYS Association of Towns about Solar Farms for the Board to review.

He wants to make sure the Planning and Zoning Boards have adequate information to work with. Welcomes input from the community

Patire: The zoning law has a section in it for Unlisted Use Permit. He said he has full confidence in the Planning and Zoning Boards, that they will make sure everything is being done correctly. Between the Site Plan Law and Zoning Law, doesn't feel we need any more laws.

Tom Valone: There are State incentives for solar farms that will expire within the year. The requirements for these farms cannot be placed just anywhere. Not in favor of a Moratorium

John Helft: Solar farms must be near a 3-phase line and substation. We need to stay current with all technology for the residents and anyone looking to move here. Taxpayers will benefit from this. Because of the placement requirements, the Town would not be overrun with farms since there are very few places where a solar farm could go due to power resource.

Jim Hoag: Zoning Chairman: The Board has been going case by case. There are things in the zoning law they can work with but no real guidelines to follow. A check off list would be helpful.

Wysocki: has a contract with HFCS for a solar farm. It is a 20 year lease with 3 five year options. The school will save a tremendous amount of money, which then the taxpayer saves.

Kevin Allard: disagrees, wants a moratorium.

Sutton: We need to keep going forward. Has questions about how are adjacent landowners going to feel when they have this huge solar farm next to them. Said he would not be happy if it was happening to him. We need to protect residents with some form of regulation.

Gary Kjelgaard, Planning Board Member: Concerns about a 3rd party supplying an electrical user outside of the Town. Has done some research and gave some examples of regulations: Decommissioning plan, landscape buffers, no glare, max height 15 ft, 8.5 foot perimeter fence required. Coverage bldgs., structures, panels not to exceed 50% of the lot.

Patire: The more power created, we save down the road in kilowatt hours.

Larry Bugbee: Has been working on a solar farm for a year now. There is a 15 year exemption, same as an Ag. Exemption that is 10 yrs, NYS has regulations for solar farms already. A 6FT chain-link fence with barbwire on top, Max height is less than 12 ft. There is no design the is 15 ft high. The State has set all perimeters on what can be done.

Andrea Diel: Planning Board Member, is currently in the process with a solar farm application. Suggested forming a committee with a person from each board to track the issues out there and bring it back to the boards. She feels both Boards do a great job. Other towns she researched were positive in wanting solar farms.

Wally Sheffer: Zoning Board Member: the school solar farm power is staying here. Power from the other farms are going elsewhere. Concerned about too much agricultural land being used for solar.

Wysocki: We can get on board with the County according to a letter from County Executive Kathy Jimino that Rensselaer County residents could save a percentage of cost on their light bills.

Surdam: Establish Committee to research and gather information on Solar Farms
Board Member - Jeff Wysocki, Zoning Board Member - Andy Beaty, Planning Board Member – Andrea Diel,
Larry Bugbee, Planning Board Member-Gary Kjelgaard.

A resolution of formal appointments will take place at the next Town Board Meeting Sept. 14th.

Close Public Hearing for Brown's Brewery

Motion to Close

Hyde made the motion to close the public hearing, Wysocki seconded, all ayes carried.

Adjournment

Patire made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Hyde seconded, all ayes carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Stradinger
Hoosick Town Clerk