

October 15, 2023

Dear Chairman Hoag and Zoning Board members:

While I am not opposed to solar power, and see it as a part of the solution for future power production, the current proposed project in Hoosick is an over-sized commercial venture that detracts more from the town than it could ever contribute. If the town is interested in solar power, it could develop community supported small non profit projects for solar production that would not blight the natural beauty of our town. What has been proposed is far too large, does not benefit the community, and conflicts with zoning laws and planning guidelines.

I am writing this request to deny the approval of any Tier 3 Solar Power Plant because it conflicts with the Town of Hoosick zoning laws. Our laws are to protect the key natural features that create openness and natural beauty. The board members are to assure us protection against unsightly, obtrusive or un-neighborly land uses or operations. Approve only projects that meet this criteria.

Sincerely, Edward Dick  
75 Pine Valley Rd.  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

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Dear Jim,

The future of our energy needs will be provided by natural gas and nuclear power. Solar for us in Hoosick will never be efficient or economical, particularly in the winter months when we don't see much sun.

Last Thursday the NYS Public Service Commission turned down a request for vastly greater subsidies, about \$12 billion worth for 90 alternate power projects. Apparently, some folks in government are waking up to the fact pouring billions more of taxpayers' money into risky and unproven solar and wind projects is not worth the increase in rates property owners will have to pay for our power that is now way above the national average. The project or projects you will be reviewing will increase not decrease our power bills.

If solar fails as a legitimate provider of energy, as I expect it will, we will have acres upon acres of solar panels across the country destroying croplands. When it is finally understood that solar is not the answer the cost of removing them and restoring the ground will be catastrophic, bonding companies won't be able to meet their obligation, and local municipalities will have to pick up the bill.

I encourage you and the board to deny the application before you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill McGovern

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Lori Estes  
Property owner at 105 Mapletown Rd. Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

James Hoag, Chairman

Town of Hoosick Zoning Board

PO Box 17

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

I am writing to ask for your consideration in delaying the approval of any industrial solar farm project in Hoosick until there is a clear plan for these projects in the Town Comprehensive Plan. Our town has suffered decades of industrial waste & abuse from our polluted river and toxic drinking water, let us not destroy our beautiful landscape.

Numerous towns in New York State and elsewhere are struggling with this issue. The successful plans are well thought out and have designated areas where industrial solar projects are allowed. A good example is the Town of Bennington which has set a goal to preserve the scenic quality of the area and they have developed a Scenic Resource Inventory in 2004 which aligned with the Town Plan.

Their ordinance ensures that solar facilities do not degrade the natural visual appeal of hillsides, ridgelines, or open fields. Industrial solar facilities cannot encroach visually or otherwise aesthetically upon a natural or historic area, gateway or upon a stream, wetland or other water source.

The Town of Hoosick Solar Energy Systems ordinance needs to develop additional items to ensure the protection of our scenic quality. Here are some items to consider:

- Our ordinance allows tree cutting and suggests that any tree larger than 6 inches in diameter should be minimized. This is merely guidance but does not prohibit the clear cut of forest in our area.
- Should we limit ridgelines and hillsides with open fields? Would we allow our hills to be dotted with 5,500 panel industrial solar projects?
- Definitions of Native Perennial Vegetation, Pollinator & Prime Farmland are mentioned in the "Definitions Specific to Chapter 14" but there is non-existent direction or details on these matters.
  - Industrial solar projects should be limited to industrial areas per our zoning laws. These areas might be expanded to accommodate the larger demand for alternative energy sources.

It is reasonable for the Town of Hoosick to embrace the protection of our scenic resources. They are invaluable and make the area attractive for visitors and residents alike.

Respectfully submitted

Sign .....Lori Estes

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James Hoag  
Chairman Town of Hoosick Zoning Board  
PO Box 17 Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

RE: Solar Power Plant – Tier 3 - Special Use Permit

Dear Chairman Hoag and Zoning Board members:

**The sheer size and scale of this proposed Solar Farm is not compatible with our Agricultural Residential neighborhood. This is an Industrial Scale facility and belongs on Industrial Zoned land.**

**The future repercussions of this facility remain unknown and the promises from Hawthorn Solar are not enough. I do not trust the Decommissioning Plan for this facility. This could be a huge disaster waiting to happen. It will be the local area residents that have to deal with it, despite the promised bond to pay for decommissioning and the rhetoric from Hawthorn Solar. It all seems like a scam that WE the people in this valley will have to deal with in the future. Could this turn into another crisis like the PFOA contamination we had to deal with? The solar panels are deemed "non-hazardous" today, but so was PFOA in the past. This facility will be 3000 feet from my home. Can you or the solar company really promise that these 50,000+ solar panels will not leach/leak/degrade and pollute our water table? That there will be NO repercussions to the land and surrounding area? 50,000+ panels over the course of 20-30 years....what about a bad hail storm...wind...a thunderstorm? Will these panels really be carefully maintained? Do you realize that most solar companies installing these facilities sell their interest in it within 3-5 years? So what will the next company do? I am truly worried about the precedent this will set for the future of our town. Our farm and land owners are being exploited by these solar companies with promises of easy money.....the town is being promised extra tax revenue.....but I ask...is this worth it?**

I am writing this request to deny the approval of any Tier 3 Solar Power Plant because it conflicts with the Town of Hoosick zoning laws.

Our laws are to protect the key natural features that create openness and natural beauty. The board members are to assure us protection against unsightly, obtrusive or un-neighborly land uses or operations. Our law should lump solar power into our industrial districts like hydro, gas, oil, coal, nuclear and windmills.

We should also limit the number of solar power plants before there is a blitz and a blight on our landscape.

Sincerely,

Peter Wilke Schaaphok  
Bovie Hill Road  
Hoosick Falls, NY

Dear James Hoag and zoning board members,

My name is James Weeden and I live at 726 Pine Valley Road. There has been a lot of opinions on the proposed solar panel farm off Ford and Pine Valley Road. My viewpoint is a landowner should be able to do what they want to on their land, not have others dictate what they can and can't do. In the age of social media, it seems like everyone wants to get everybody else's business.

The times are changing, and this is inevitable. I am sure if traditional farming were profitable then the Ford, Wilwol and Lockrow families would still be milking cows on the land that is proposed solar panel land. It is not and farming has become more and more difficult.

This is opportunity for the town of Hoosick to make substantial more tax revenue than if it stayed corn fields.

Everyone talks about going green but when an opportunity arises, they say "not near me."

I went to the open forum on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and I disagree with most I heard from the people that opposed this. I don't believe it disturbs any wildlife; most this land is tilled every year anyways. Destruction of roads and excessive traffic. These roads are already excessively traveled and used as alternate route during closures on route 7. Not to mention Pine Valley Road is in terrible shape. I believe, from what I heard, is the solar company stated they would maintain or make the roads in even better shape during construction of this project. That's alone is a positive . Most people who travel Pine Valley will not see but a glimpse of the land while they drive by.

I don't believe property values will decrease. There is no evidence showing solar farms decrease land value. However, if their property values decrease, then they should get their house reassessed and taxes lowered.

On a road that has thousands of acres along it, I do not think it is right to deny a 128 acre mostly hidden solar panel farm that the owners want to build. I approve the construction of this project.

Thank you,



James Weeden

Dear James Hoag and zoning board members,

My name is Brittany Marbot. I wanted to take a moment and thank you in advance for reading my letter. I write to explain why I am in favor of the solar project located on Pine Valley and Fords road. As a farmer and a property owner, I believe there are a lot of benefits to the solar project, not only for us as the land owners, but for the town of Hoosick as well.

During the initial stages of this process, I did my own research and have put a lot of thought into this project. All of this work lead to our decision to put a solar project on our land. As we all know, solar and substantial energy has been increasing *and will be our future*

One of the biggest benefits of solar will be a better future for me and my family. People are often quick to oppose something that doesn't directly benefit them. However, they do not realize our struggles to pay our land tax, fuel costs, labor cost, equipment cost, seed and fertilizer cost ect just by farming alone. As we all know, the farming industry is getting harder and harder to sustain and it is getting harder to make a living on farming alone. The cost to farm has significantly increased over the past few years. Any local farmer can attest to that. The cost of fertilizer, labor, fuel, and equipment maintenance and repairs alone all continue to rise.

Leasing some of our land will provide a steady source of income and allow us to maintain and farm the rest of our land, without having to worry about how we are going to survive. This project will make it possible for us, as well as future generations, to continue farming.

This project has benefits to others as well. It will bring more sustainable clean energy to the grid. Electricity usage is continuing to rise as more homes and businesses are constructed and occupied and automobiles convert to electric. This project will help offset that burden to the grid, as well as increasing its stability by providing it with a new natural energy source. This project also will increase tax revenue for the Town of Hoosick which is another huge benefit. More revenue to the Town and school district.

This project will also create local job opportunities, which is sorely needed. I have heard so many people say they can't find employment locally. They have to travel Vermont or Albany for employment. As someone who use to travel to Albany every day for work, I can Say it adds an extra two hours in good traffic to an already 8 ½ hour day. That's a minimum of 10 additional hours a week that people in this area are missing out on with their families and children. I know I would much rather travel 15 to 20 minutes to work a day.

I truly am for harvesting natural sources of Energy, whether it be solar projects or windmills. Solar farms create clean energy that doesn't harm the environment. They are a reliable, clean energy source, do not cause pollution, can still be used to graze livestock, and provide energy for everyone. They provide resilience to the grid against blackouts or weather events, they build community wealth, and create local jobs. They also reduce carbon emissions. Solar farms are a great and beneficial way to provide natural energy. For these reasons I am all for this solar project.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and make this a part of your consideration.

Sincerely ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brittany Marbot". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the letter, below the typed name "Sincerely ,".

October 16, 2023

James Hoag, Chairman  
Town of Hoosick Zoning Board  
PO Box 17  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

RE: Solar Power Plant – Tier 3 - Special Use Permit

Dear Chairman Hoag and Zoning Board members:

I am writing this second request to deny the approval of any Tier 3 Solar Power Plant based on the conflict within the Town of Hoosick Land Use Law. If you review the general sections, mainly Chapter 1 and Chapter 3, a Tier 3 Solar Power Plant does not align with the Scope, Purpose and Use Regulations. I have highlighted the parts below to support this analysis.

#### **Chapter 1: Title, Scope and Purpose**

- Encourage the rural character of the town
- Protect key natural features that create openness and natural beauty
- Assure privacy for residences and protection against loud, unsightly, obtrusive or un-neighborly land use or operations.
- Assure adequate sites for residential, agricultural, industrial and commercial uses.

#### **Chapter 3: Use Regulations**

- Currently all other forms of energy power plants are designated under Industrial land district in our Land Use Law. This includes hydro, gas, oil, coal, nuclear and windmills. Solar is absent from this list and should be classified as any other Energy Plant to protect residents.

#### **Chapter 14: Solar Energy Systems**

- Sec. 14.8 – Permitting requirements for Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems require special use permits. All Zones are at risk especially Hamlets, Rural Residential, Agricultural, Conservation Resource Management and Historic areas. Some of these areas should be specifically not allowed. Our current law leaves all sensitive areas open to special use permits which costs all parties time and expense. Without distinction, this section does not treat solar as industrial and does not achieve the scope of protection for residents and our natural beauty.
- Sec. H – Tree-cutting: Removal of existing trees larger than 6 inches in diameter should be minimized to the extent possible. This does not prevent the clear cutting of forests, ridgelines or open fields before the Special Use Permit is requested.
- Sec. K (1) – Lot size a. The property on which the Tier 3 Solar Energy System is placed shall meet the lot size requirements of the underlying zoning district. The minimum lot area for each designated is .5 to 1 acre. There is no requirement for a maximum lot area. It is currently unlimited. Would the Town allow 200, 1,000, 10,000 acres of farmland to be a solar power plant?
- Sec. K (6) – Screening and Visibility – A digital viewshed report may be required. This change in the law from “may” to “shall” would clearly support the scope and purpose of the zoning law. Visible screening requirements with natural plants and trees should also be year-round. Solar

facilities cannot degrade the natural visible appearance of hillsides, ridgelines, or open fields. Without these limitations, Chapter 14 – Solar Energy Systems does not conform with our general scope in our zoning law.

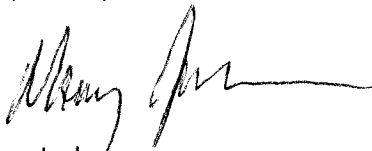
- Special Use Permit (SUP) compliance specifically for Tier 3 Solar Power Plants – The town should require a compliance review every year to ensure compliance with the SUP. If there are 3 or more violations, the permit would be null and void if SUP covenants are not met.
- Will we limit the amount of solar power plants in the area? How many is too many? If you approve one, it will be hard to reject other requests.

**Other considerations:**

- Conflict of Interests – Rensselaer County, Town of Hoosick and landowners will realize income from these solar power plants. All this is good except when we choose farmland and fields over the need to produce revenue.
- In the NY Post editorial dated October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, “The wheels are coming off New York’s insane alternate-energy plans” gives a summary that due to certain conditions the NYS renewable energy plans are not properly funded. It will also increase rates for citizens. Companies are citing increased costs to develop and deliver solar and wind energy. It is believed that this effort by the state government will fail. Here is a link to the article:  
[https://nypost.com/2023/10/15/the-wheels-are-coming-off-new-yorks-insane-alternate-energy-plans/?utm\\_campaign=iphone\\_nyp&utm\\_source=mail\\_app](https://nypost.com/2023/10/15/the-wheels-are-coming-off-new-yorks-insane-alternate-energy-plans/?utm_campaign=iphone_nyp&utm_source=mail_app)
- Our zoning laws are the backbone of our community to secure a rural life and protect our investments in our homes and businesses. Our leaders are committed to making our community thrive. But when zoning projects cause community dissatisfaction with neighbor versus neighbor, we should avoid this conflict. As of today, there are 223 signatures on a change.org petition to ask the zoning board to protect us from uncontrolled solar projects.  
[https://www.change.org/p/protect-our-community-pause-solar-projects-in-hoosick?original\\_footer\\_petition\\_id=36293074&algorithm=promoted&source\\_location=petition\\_footer&grid\\_position=7&pt=AVBldGI0aW9uAHxtPglAAAAAZShFmOMrra02ODIxZjVkMw%3D%3D](https://www.change.org/p/protect-our-community-pause-solar-projects-in-hoosick?original_footer_petition_id=36293074&algorithm=promoted&source_location=petition_footer&grid_position=7&pt=AVBldGI0aW9uAHxtPglAAAAAZShFmOMrra02ODIxZjVkMw%3D%3D)

I believe solar power plants have a role in Hoosick Falls in the correct place. I hope we take the time to identify those areas and work to keep our landscape and our natural beauty intact just as our zoning law dictates. The Board of Appeals, in the granting of variances, shall grant the minimum variance that it shall deem necessary and adequate, and at the same time preserve and protect the character of the neighborhood and the health, safety and welfare of the community (Chapter 12.4.5.3)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jackson  
73 Fairbanks Rd  
Hoosick Falls, NY



October 13, 2023

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am writing again with more questions.

1. Is the SEQR a Type 1 action? It should be
2. Was there an Environmental Impact Statement done? I don't see it in their application packet.
3. Will there be a SEQR public hearing as the NYS SEQR law states is required?
4. Does the project have an Army Corp of Engineer permit for the wetlands? The property has a large Army Corp listed Wetland which should require a permit from that agency.
5. Has there been a Long Eared Bat study done as required by law passed US Fish and wildlife 2022, put into law March 2023? They are endangered and currently hibernating and this study would have to be done late May early June.

6. IN THE AREAS CONSIDERED PRIME FARMLAND (THERE IS SOME ON MAP) ARE THEY USING LESS THAN 50% AS REQUIRED BY LAW  
My other questions are in Michael Batcher's report. I respectfully request that my questions be answered in writing.

Thank you,

Marianne Zwicklbauer

73 E Hoosick Rd.

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

7. TIER 3 SOLAR ON PRIME FARMLAND IS REQUIRED TO SEED MINIMUM 20% OF AREA W/ NATIVE PERENNIAL VEGETATION TO ATTRACT POLINATORS, NYS LAW (HOOSICK)
8. TIER 3 SOLAR REQUIRES DEVELOPEMINT, IMPLEMENT, & MAINTAIN NATIVE VEGETATION TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE PURSUANT TO A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN BY PROVIDING NATIVE PERENNIAL VEGETATION & FORAGING HABITAT FOR GAME BIRDS, SONG BIRDS, & POLINATORS. NYS LAW (HOOSICK)

Jim, SOIL OVERLAY MAP SHOWS SOME OF THIS ON PRIME FARMLAND.

Michael S. Batchner

1907 Buskirk-West Hoosick Rd.  
Buskirk, NY 12028  
518-669-7164 (cell)  
mbatcher@riverbeauty.net

October 11, 2023

Marianne Zwicklebauer  
73 East Hoosick Rd.  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090-4106  
(sent via email)

Dear Marianne:

## I. Introduction

This letter is divided into three sections. Section I summarizes the relevant requirements under the State Environmental Review Act (SEQR). Section II provides specific comments on some of the submitted materials and Section III provides some questions on the current review process under SEQR.

SEQR review is required by any state or local agency proposing to issue a discretionary permit. It also applies to adopting rules or regulations. Here is a description of classes of actions from the SEQR Cookbook (available via [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits\\_ej\\_operations\\_pdf/cookbook1.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/cookbook1.pdf)):

### a. Actions Requiring No Further Review Under SEQR

- Type II—An action contained on the list in section 617.5 or on an agency's locally adopted Type II list. Type II actions have been determined not to have a significant impact or are otherwise precluded from environmental review under SEQR. Type II actions never require the preparation of a determination of significance or a draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

If an action is classified as Type II, review under SEQR is completed. Although not required, an agency may choose to provide documentation in the project file that the action has been classified as Type II.

### b. Actions Which Require Further Review Under SEQR

- Type I—An action that meets or exceeds a threshold contained on the list in section 617.4 or one that is on an agency's locally adopted Type I list. Type I actions are more likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment than Unlisted actions and may require the preparation of a draft EIS.

- Unlisted—An action that does not meet or exceed the thresholds contained on the Type I list and is not contained on the Type II list. An Unlisted action requires a determination of significance and may require the preparation of a draft EIS.

NYSERDA drafted the Solar Guidebook for Local Governments (available via: <file:///C:/Users/Michael/Downloads/2023-State-Environmental-Qulty-Review-for-Solar.pdf>). That document states on page 106:

“As identified in Section 3.2, there are three types of SEQR actions: Type I, Type II and Unlisted. Classifying actions by type focuses largely on the size of the project and to some extent the proximity to sensitive environmental or social-cultural resources. Thresholds are defined for Type I and Type II actions. Actions not falling under one of these categories are referred to as Unlisted.

Thresholds that would classify a solar project as a Type I action include:

- The physical alteration of 10 acres or the expansion of any existing solar facility by 5 acres or more.
- An Unlisted Action that includes a nonagricultural use occurring wholly or partially within an Agricultural District (certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, article 25-AA, sections 303 and 304) and exceeds 25 percent of any threshold established in this section. (For example, the threshold for physical alteration of 10 acres would be reduced to 2.5 acres in an Agricultural District, so any solar installation within an Agricultural District requiring more than 2.5 acres of land would be elevated to a Type I action.)
- An Unlisted Action (unless the action is designed for the preservation of the facility or site) occurring wholly or partially within, or substantially contiguous to, any historic building, structure, facility, site or district or prehistoric site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or that has been proposed by the New York State Board on Historic Preservation for a recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer for nomination for inclusion in the National Register, or that is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. See the definition of “substantially contiguous.”
- An Unlisted Action, that exceeds 25 percent of any threshold in this section, occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any publicly owned or operated parkland, recreation area or designated open space, including any site on the Register of National Natural Landmarks pursuant to 36 CFR part 62, 1994 (see section 617.17 of this Part). See the definition of ‘substantially contiguous.’”

There is much more detail in the SEQR Handbook, available via:  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits\\_ej\\_operations\\_pdf/seqrhandbook.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/seqrhandbook.pdf).

## II. Specific Comments

The table below provides specific comments from the review of various documents submitted for the project. There is a lot of material, and I likely missed some issues.

Comment Number	Document	Page (s)	Comment
1	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	General	A number of questions were left unanswered. Some because they did not apply and others just blank. Therefore, the form does not appear to be complete.
2	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	2; Section B	There are ACOE mapped wetlands on the property and some actions may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	2; Section C	Rensselaer County also has an agricultural protection plan.
4	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	4, Section D.1	D1.b. states there will be no encroachment in wetlands. E.1.b. seems to contradict that.

Comment Number	Document	Page (s)	Comment
5	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	4, Section D.1. m	So, there will not be any humming of any transformers or from the new connection with National Grid?
6	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	7. Section D.1.k.iii	Is not a new substation proposed for the connection to National Grid?
7	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	9. Section E.1. b.	There appears to be more wetland on the site than 0.62 acres. I would estimate 10-15 acres in total.
8	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	10. Section E.1. h.	Was an environmental assessment for any hazardous materials on the site completed? Was the site identified as having PFOA contamination?
9	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	12, Section E.2.m	Are there any observational lists of wildlife from field surveys? Did those surveying the wetlands collect any field data on species composition and abundance, the type of wetland, or wetland functions?
10	9.1 Hawthorn SEQR EAF	13, Section E.3. f and g	What is the source of the archeological information?
11	13. SWPP	General	I would suggest native species be used in any grassy swales or other measures that will be in place after construction.
12	13. SWPPP	11	I would suggest monitoring the stormwater system after major storm events and in the spring after snowmelt and not just annually.
13	15. Landscape Plan	General	The plan proposes the use of several species including pitch pine, scrub oak and bayberry that are uncommon in this area. I would suggest a review of the NY Flora Atlas for some substitutes of native species that could be used (see: <a href="https://newyork.platatlas.usf.edu">https://newyork.platatlas.usf.edu</a> )

### III. SEQR Process

Any agency that is responsible for issuing a discretionary permit is subject to SEQR, and these agencies are called “involved agencies.” From what I can tell, those include the Town of Hoosick Zoning Board, The Town of Hoosick Town Board, Rensselaer County, NYSDEC (stormwater management and possibly wetlands), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands) and possibly the NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets (see Guidelines for Solar Energy Projects – Construction and Mitigation for Agricultural Lands, available via:

[https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/10/solar\\_energy\\_guidelines.pdf](https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/10/solar_energy_guidelines.pdf)).

The Zoning Board held a public hearing on September 23, 2023. Have they declared themselves the lead agency? Are they communicating with other involved agencies for coordinated review? I wonder if the Zoning Board could outline the steps they have taken and what comes next?

I hope these comments and the materials I have sent you are helpful. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Batcher', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael S. Batcher

Dear Board Members,

10/10/23

First, we want to be sure to thank you for all that you do for our Hoosick community. We must all remember that you serve on these boards because of the love you have for our wonderful community. We all want to see Hoosick successfully grow and prosper in a well planned manner.

How to grow and prosper is the very question? Do we allow a few individuals to prosper at the expense of the entire Hoosick community ? This proposed industrial solar project will ruin one of our most valuable assets. As a community , we need to look at and learn from some of its past decision that has ended up costing the community as a whole.

For example, the sale of the Grandma Moses school house was a quick pay out , but Hoosick lost a treasure that may have continued to benefit the community if a proper investment was made at the time.

The tearing down of local land marks through the years has ended up costing the community. Can you imagine the historical impact our community would have had if we had the foresight to protect those treasures? After all, people travel far and wide to visit historical sights and honor our history.

Now, we are at time to vote to protect Hoosick. Hoosick is a historical town rich in revolutionary and agricultural history. We must be mindful that Hoosick's beautiful agricultural landscapes are a resource worth protecting. We ask that you please consider the negative impact of an industrial solar project if it is to be placed in an agricultural zone. There are places that industrial solar projects should go ,and there are places that they should NOT go. Please do not allow a commercial project to be placed in an agricultural zone, and please protect Hoosick for the future generations to come. Thank you.

Regards,  
David and Gail Delurey

October 6, 2023

James Hoag, Chairman  
Town of Hoosick Zoning Board  
PO Box 17  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

RE: Solar Farm Special Use Permit

Dear Chairman Hoag and Zoning Board members:

I am writing to ask for the Zoning Board's consideration in delaying the approval of any industrial solar project in the Town of Hoosick until there is a clear plan for these projects and an effort to protect our visual resources in the Town Comprehensive Plan. Our town has suffered decades of industrial waste & abuse from our polluted river and toxic drinking water. We need to ensure that we do not destroy our beautiful landscape.

Numerous towns in New York State and elsewhere are struggling with this issue. The successful plans are well thought out and have designated areas where industrial solar projects are allowed. A good example is the Town of Bennington which has set a goal to preserve the scenic quality of the area and they have developed a Scenic Resource Inventory in 2004 which aligned with the Town Plan.

Their ordinance ensures that solar facilities do not degrade the natural visual appeal of hillsides, ridgelines, or open fields. Industrial solar facilities cannot encroach visually or otherwise aesthetically upon a natural or historic area, gateway or upon a stream, wetland or other water source. I have attached Bennington's Article 29 Screening of Solar Facilities for your convenience.

The Town of Hoosick Solar Energy Systems Land Use Law (Chapter 14) needs to develop additional items to ensure the protection of our scenic resource. Here are some items to consider:

- Should we limit ridgelines and hillsides with open fields? Would we allow our hills to be dotted with 5,500 panel industrial solar projects?
- Definitions under Chapter 14 exist for Native Perennial Vegetation, Pollinator & Prime Farmland but there is no direction or details on these matters.
- Industrial solar projects should be limited to industrial areas per our zoning laws.

It is reasonable for the Town of Hoosick to embrace the protection of our scenic resources. They are invaluable and make the area attractive for visitors and residents alike.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary Jackson  
73 Fairbanks Rd  
Hoosick Falls, NY

Enc. (1)

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### ARTICLE 29. SCREENING OF SOLAR FACILITIES

**(A) Purpose.** In accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2291, this Civil Ordinance sets forth screening requirements for ground mounted solar electric generation facilities in excess of 15kW(AC) (solar facilities) located in the Town of Bennington. This Ordinance is intended to further the goal of preserving the scenic quality of Bennington consistent with the guidelines set forth in the report entitled "Town of Bennington Scenic Resource Inventory," dated December 2004 and with the goals and policies of the then current Bennington Town Plan. This Ordinance is further intended to ensure that solar facilities do not degrade the natural visual appeal of hillsides, ridgelines, or open fields, and do not encroach visually or otherwise aesthetically upon a natural or historic area or gateway or upon a stream, wetland, or other water resource.

**(B) Screening Requirements.**

1. All solar facilities shall be screened in accordance with the screening requirements set forth in this Ordinance. The screening requirements: a) are consistent with the screening requirements applied to commercial development in all zoning districts as set forth in the Town of Bennington Land Use and Development Regulations; and b) articulate reasonable aesthetic mitigation measures to harmonize a solar facility with its surroundings.
2. All solar facilities shall be sited and screened so that visual impacts of such facilities, including but not limited to, solar panels, transformers, utility poles, fencing, etc., are mitigated as viewed from public streets and thoroughfares, scenic viewpoints, and/or adjacent properties. The Town of Bennington Select Board shall determine screening requirements and associated site issues for each solar facility based upon the standards in this Ordinance. The Select Board may request recommendations from the Town of Bennington Planning Commission, or by other boards or advisory groups appointed by the Select Board.
3. Screening shall provide a year round visual screen, and shall occur on property owned or controlled by the owner and/or operator of the solar facility. A diversity of materials shall be used to create a diverse, naturalized screen rather than a large expanse of uninterrupted, uniform material. Materials may



include: trees and shrubs indigenous to the area, and berms, or a combination thereof, to achieve the objective of screening the site.

4. All screening shall be maintained to optimize screening at all times by the owner and/or operator of the solar facility until the solar facility is decommissioned and removed. Plantings that die or become diseased shall be replaced within six months of dying or becoming diseased.

**(C) Recommendations to the Public Service Board.** Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2291, the Town of Bennington may make recommendations to the Public Service Board applying the requirements of this Ordinance to a proposed solar facility. The Select Board is designated to make such recommendations.

**(D) Condition of Certificate of Public Good.** Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2291, the screening requirements of this Ordinance and the recommendations of the Town of Bennington shall be a condition of a certificate of public good issued under 30 V.S.A. Sec. 248 for a solar facility in Bennington.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY ADOPTED by the Select Board of the Town of Bennington this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015 and shall, unless a petition is filed as provided by law, become effective upon the expiration of 60 days after said date.

Select Board  
Town of Bennington, Vermont

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharyn L. Brush

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald A. Campbell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Carroll

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin J. Corcoran

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas H. Jacobs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael A. Keane

\_\_\_\_\_  
John C. McFadden

Adria Diel

586 Johnson Hill rd.

Hoosick Falls, NY. 12090

518 686 1448

October 16, 2023

To the Town of Hoosick Zoning Board,

And Whom Concerned,

As a former member of the Hoosick Falls solar committee, and current ongoing member of the Town of Hoosick Planning Board, I would like to add my support and encouragement to the Zoning Board in following the process and law we have in place.

There are valid concerns on the current largescale project under review, specifically regarding setbacks and adequate view shed screening. It is crucial that these, and all our criteria be addressed and enforced.

There are ongoing solar development projects within the town, some of which have made significant investments, that are proceeding accordingly to comply with the existing law in Hoosick Falls.

Thank You for all your time and efforts on the Zoning Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adria Diel', written in a cursive style.

Adria Diel

## Holli Cross

---

**From:** Peter Wilke Schaaphok <pws@vpscontrols.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 8:45 PM  
**To:** Holli Cross  
**Subject:** RE: Solar Power Plant Special Use Permit

Hi Holli - Could you please forward this to the zoning board?

Thank you!

-----  
  
James Hoag  
Chairman Town of Hoosick Zoning Board  
PO Box 17 Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

RE: Solar Power Plant – Tier 3 - Special Use Permit

Dear Chairman Hoag and Zoning Board members:

**The sheer size and scale of this proposed Solar Farm is not compatible with our Agricultural Residential neighborhood. This is an Industrial Scale facility and belongs on Industrial Zoned land.**

**The future repercussions of this facility remain unknown and the promises from Hawthorn Solar are not enough. I do not trust the Decommissioning Plan for this facility. This could be a huge disaster waiting to happen. It will be the local area residents that have to deal with it, despite the promised bond to pay for decommissioning and the rhetoric from Hawthorn Solar. It all seems like a scam that WE the people in this valley will have to deal with in the future. Could this turn into another crisis like the PFOA contamination we had to deal with? The solar panels are deemed "non-hazardous" today, but so was PFOA in the past. This facility will be 3000 feet from my home. Can you or the solar company really promise that these 50,000+ solar panels will not leach/leak/degrade and pollute our water table? That there will be NO repercussions to the land and surrounding area? 50,000+ panels over the course of 20-30 years....what about a bad hail storm...wind...a thunderstorm? Will these panels really be carefully maintained? Do you realize that most solar companies installing these facilities sell their interest in it within 3-5 years? So what will the next company do? I am truly worried about the precedent this will set for the future of our town. Our farm and land owners are being exploited by these solar companies with promises of easy money.....the town is being promised extra tax revenue.....but I ask...is this worth it?**

I am writing this request to deny the approval of any Tier 3 Solar Power Plant because it conflicts with the Town of Hoosick zoning laws.

Our laws are to protect the key natural features that create openness and natural beauty. The board members are to assure us protection against unsightly, obtrusive or un-neighborly land uses or operations. Our law should lump solar power into our industrial districts like hydro, gas, oil, coal, nuclear and windmills.

We should also limit the number of solar power plants before there is a blitz and a blight on our landscape.

Sincerely,

Peter Wilke Schaaphok  
Bovie Hill Road  
Hoosick Falls, NY

## Holli Cross

---

**From:** Ransom Northrup <ransomnorthrup@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 8:40 PM  
**To:** hoosicjim@verizon.net; Holli Cross  
**Subject:** No Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems

James Hoag, Chairman  
Town of Hoosick Zoning Board  
[hoosicjim@verizon.net](mailto:hoosicjim@verizon.net)  
PO Box 17  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Dear Chairman Hoag and Zoning Board Members,

I am writing to request that you deny the approval of any Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems in Hoosick Falls. Projects of Industrial size belong in Industrial Areas and not in Residential and Agricultural Areas.

Sincerely,  
Ransom Northrup  
Bovie Hill Road  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

October 9, 2023

James Hoag, Chairman  
Town of Hoosick Zoning Board  
PO Box 17  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

I am writing to ask for your consideration in delaying the approval of any industrial solar farm project in Hoosick until there is a clear plan for these projects in the Town Comprehensive Plan. Our town has suffered decades of industrial waste & abuse from our polluted river and toxic drinking water, let us not destroy our beautiful landscape.

As the Director of the Historical Society, I am concerned about the nonchalant attitude toward the cemetery/burial site for Henry Dopking. I am inclosing the information I have on him at this time. The history that goes along with Henry is irreplaceable and even though they said a panel would not be going right on top of him, the area where he is buried will be disturbed and should be considered for an archaeological dig before it is disturbed to much. We don't have an extensive understanding of those who settled here before the organization as a town in 1788. If his home is disturbed, we could lose valuable historical information.

As a town resident and will be affected by the Wilson Hill site and the Ford Rd was my family farm, I am concerned for the visual effect the panels will cause. The Town of Bennington has developed a good plan, we should look at theirs and not be the unattractive neighbors to Vt. I am working with many organization and states to make our community the best it can be for the semisesquicentennial in 2026 and to celebrate our big anniversaries in 2027, we want to encourage visitors to travel our backroads, see where historic battles took place and enjoy our town. We don't want them to say "look at all those solar panels. Without a full plan now, could you image the fields around the battlefield being filled with solar? That could happen without concise laws.

The Town of Hoosick Solar Energy Systems ordinance needs to develop additional items to ensure the protection of our scenic quality. Here are some items to consider:

It is important for the Town of Hoosick to embrace the protection of our scenic resources. They are invaluable and make the area attractive for visitors and residents alike.

Respectfully submitted



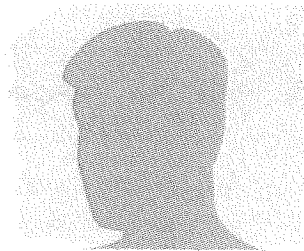
Joyce Brewer

Resident and Director Hoosick Township Historical Society



# Henry Dopking

Back to Dopking surname



## Henry Dopking

**Also Known As:** "Henry Dopkings", "Henry Dopkins", "Heinrich Conrad Dopking", "Henrick Conrad Dopkins"

**Birthdate:** May 08, 1737

**Birthplace:** Minden, Echternach, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany

**Death:** March 12, 1800 (62)  
Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County, New York, United States

**Place of Burial:** Dopkins Cemetery, Renssealer co, Hoosick, NY

**Immediate Family:** Son of Christian Conrad Dopking and Christina Hannah Fforest  
Husband of Catherine Hannah Dopking  
Father of Nathaniel William Dopking

**Managed by:** Private User

**Last Updated:** April 5, 2023

[View Complete Profile](#)

**Is your surname Dopking?**  
Connect to 49 Dopking profiles on Geni

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### Henry Dopking's Geni Profile

- Contact profile manager
- View family tree
- Problem with this page?

**Share your family tree and photos with the people you know and love**

- Build your family tree online
- Share photos and videos
- Smart Matching™ technology
- Free!

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## Matching family tree profiles for Henry Dopking

[view all matches](#)

**Henry Dopkins** in MyHeritage family trees (Dopkins Web Site)

**Hendrick Dopking** in MyHeritage family trees (WagarJohnsonTisdale family tree Web Site)

**Henry Dopkins** in MyHeritage family trees (Fiandaca Web Site)

### Immediate Family

[view all](#)

Catherine Hannah Dopking  
wife

Nathaniel William Dopking  
son

Christian Conrad Dopking  
father

Christina Hannah Fforest  
mother

### About Henry Dopking

#### GEDCOM Note

Henry was born in 1737, three years before Frederick II (the "Great") became King of Prussia. He came to this country as a young man, supposedly hired to tend horses during "the war" (between the French and English, with Frederick on the side of the English). Henry's son Frederick and grandson Frederick William were no doubt named after Frederick II. The name Dopkins is typically spelled "Doeken" in Germany.

According to The New York Grant's Company and must of New York in Hoosick, Alb

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[Great!](#)



APHNYS Region

Town of Hoosick  
Rensselaer County, NY

	CEMETERY	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS	FIRST	LAST	BURIED	CONTACT/REMARKS
Baker (Noah)		Tate Road east of former district school	3a	D	1816	1861	11	
Barnet		North side Troy&Bennington RR east of Cottrell Road underpass	3a	D	1797	1851	24	
Bratt (Barnardus)		North East of Petersburgh Junction	3a	D	UNK	UNK	UNK	Stones under sod
Bratt (Seneca)		South of Cipperly Road east of Griswold lane	3b	D	1836	1890	7	
Breese		North of Cipperly Road opposite Griswold lane	3b	D	1812	1828	6	Stones missing
Broughton		NW across Rens Co 87 (Babcock Lake Road) from Shulters	3a	D	1821	1918	31	
Brown		Eagle Road north part of former LeBarron farm	3a	D	UNK	UNK	10	Unreadable fieldstones
Brtownell (William)		South of Wagner Road on hill over Nepimosh Brook	3a	D	1823	1910	12	Two probables with no stones
Brownell (Wm H H)		Wilson Hill Road on land owned by Donald Baker (2005)	3c	D				1 Tombstone has been moved, Wm H H Brownell lived on this farm
Carpenter		New Road on former Harold Hill Farm NE of abandoned road to James Hunt land	10a	D	1812	1938	81	
Case		Former Town of Hoosick gravel pit	10a	D	UNK	UNK	UNK	Nothing left
Catholic Church, Hoosick Falls		West side of Church street, second lot north of Carey Avenue	5a	D	UNK	UNK	UNK	Moved to St. Mary's?
Clark		North of NY Route 67 behind former St John's Episcopal Chapel	3a	D	1838	1868	19	
Cottrell		Former Samuel Cottrell homestead south Wilson Hill Road east of ridge line	3a	D	UNK	UNK	UNK	+ Moved to Island Hill or Maple Grove
Crandall		East of abandoned White House-Pitchtown Road on land farmed by Jack Wysocki (2005)	3b	D	1821	1847		
Cross		North of Warren Cemetery Road just west of Spicer Road	3b	D	1805	1870	6	
Dolan Avenue		Near Dolan Avenue in Hoosick Falls	3o	D	1830	1907	5	Listed by Mable Hewitt
Dopking		Ford Road	3c	D	1800	1800	1	

Stone under tree in field on Edgar Philpotts Farm,  
Southwest Hoosick. About one mile and a half from  
four corners near Advent Church. Town of Hoosick,  
Rensselaer County.

Dopping  
1929

Dopping, Henry. In memory of Mr. Henry Dopping who was  
born in Minden in Brandenburg on the Weser under  
the King of Prussia May 8, 1737. & died Mar. 12  
1800

All you that read with little care  
Who walk away & leave me here  
Must not forget that you must die  
And be entombed as well as I.

Copied by Fanny L. White, Hoosick, N.Y. October 1929.  
Hoosac-Walloomsac Chapter D.A.R. Hoosick Falls, N.Y.



Persons Names	Real Estate	Total	Debt	Net
Compton's paper	530	118		64
Cooper Nathan		38		3
Culler Samuel				
Cornwell Thomas	1250	140	1	39
Cord Samuel	200	10		21
Cord Thomas	600	220		72
Consteadt Daniel	600	120		72
Coary Samuel	950	310	1	26
Craig & Morgan	1000	200	1	20
Craig & Morgan	700	476	1	17
Cham Benjamin	750	68		81
Clarke Estelle	250			25
Cartwright	1305	105	1	41
Dobkins Nathan	1333	109	1	34
Dobkins Nathaniel	414	46		49
Dobkins Hannah	850	60		95
Dobkins Frederick	1333	134	1	46
Dobkins Henry	600	46		68
Dickinson John		70		7
Dickinson Samuel		90		9
Dixon Dennis		680		68
Doughty John	100	55		15
Doran John	2796	687	3	40
Doran John		72		7
Dixon James	125	40		16
Dulittle David	60	32		4
Dorr Joseph	2550	150	2	60
Dutton Abraham	250	61		31
Dunford Isaac	890	138		90
Dwight Wallerman	125	122		24
Dwight Field				
Eldridge Edward	800	86		80
Ellis Gordon	2900	353	3	25
Eldridge John	40	19		5
Eldridge Thomas	600	165		76
				2759



Joyce Brewer <tjbrewer4942@gmail.com>

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## finding a German soldier

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Schnitzer, Eric H <Eric\_Schnitzer@nps.gov>

Sun, Feb 26, 2023 at 11:27 AM

To: Joyce Brewer <tjbrewer4942@gmail.com>

Cc: David Pitlyk <david.pitlyk@parks.ny.gov>

Hi Joyce,

Thank you for contacting me about Henry Dopkins - I really appreciate it. I can help you here.

We have a complete accounting of all German soldiers (Braunschweig and Hessen) who served in the Canada Army during the war, which of course includes those who served under Burgoyne in 1777. No one with the name of Henry / Heinrich Dopkins / Dobkins served (including plausible surname spelling variants).

Thank you for proving a photo of his headstone - it'll look incredible once it's cleaned! It's hard to read without being there in person, but it appears to state that he was born in Minden in Brandenburg on the Weser under the King of Prussia in 1737. As such, during Henry's life in Germany, he would have lived within the Kingdom of Prussia - Brandenburg was part of that Kingdom in the 18th century. While Germans sometimes crossed borders and joined militaries of other German states when those states were leasing regiments out, the Kingdom of Prussia was wholly outside of the "regiments for hire" system. So, it really wouldn't make sense for Henry to have been a German hireling fighting in the Battle of Bennington.

Instead, I find that Henry was happily ensconced on land that he owned and paid taxes on in the Hoosick District by 1779 - this alone is proof that there's no way he could have been an ex-combatant from Burgoyne's army (not as a deserter, or a POW, or under any circumstance).

The genealogical trail shows us that he married Catherina Forrest on 28 Nov 1759 in New York, further proving that the circumstances bringing him to North America was something apart from serving in the American War for Independence. If he had any military service under his belt, I would suggest that it would have been in the 7 Years' War (1756-1763). If so, given that he was from Germany and present in America by 1759, the most likely scenario is that he was a soldier in the Royal American Regiment, i.e. the British 60th Regiment of Foot. This is the exact same regiment that fellow German Hoosick District settler Franz Pfister served in at that time. Coincidence? Possibly...but probably not.

I hope this helps - there's always more to uncover!

Sincerely,  
Eric

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Eric H. Schnitzer  
Park Ranger / Military Historian  
Saratoga National Historical Park  
648 Route 32  
Stillwater, N.Y. 12170  
U.S.A.  
office (Sun only): 518.670.2981

