

CONSERVATION BOARD

OCTOBER 22, 2018

MEMBERS:

Sue Hilton, Chairman
Matt Chaffer
Kim Boyd
Chris Baldwin (absent)
Pat Murphy (absent)
Jody Binnix (absent)

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES:

The June 25, 2018 minutes and the August 27, 2018 minutes are tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

GUESTS:

The Conservation members welcomed Mr. Gordon Wilson and Mr. Jim Falanga to their meeting. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Falanga are representatives of about 30 Farmington citizens who would like to share their concerns and comments about the proposed Delaware River Solar Facility.

According to Mr. Falanga, this facility would be located on approximately 40 acres on Fox Road and Yellow Mills Road on land that is zoned agriculture. This would be one of the largest solar plants in upstate New York and would consist of 21,000 solar panels and would have a life expectancy of 35 years. This plant would have an 8 foot chain link fence around it with barb wire along the top.

Mr. Falanga indicated that there is no financial benefit to the Town of Farmington other than the cost of the application fee's. There would be no reduction in utility rates and no electricity would be provided to the town of Farmington.

This area of Farmington has historically been rural and is zoned agricultural and would need to go in front of the Farmington Zoning Board for area variances.

The Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee and the Farmington Conservation Advisory Board were named as part of the SEQR process.

The Farmington Agriculture Board discussed and with consideration of the Delaware River Solar application at a public meeting held on October 18, 2018 does not support the magnitude and impact that an installation of this size would have on neighboring open space and agricultural lands.

The Farmington Conservation members had the following comments:

1. They are concerned by the overall size and magnitude of this project.
2. They question the storm water run off and any problems that it may cause.
3. They would like to see the lighting plans and what effect it would have on the area.
4. They are concerned about the reduction of prime farm land in Farmington.
5. They would like to see some landscaping plans for screening such as tree's and plants they would use.
6. If there are drumlins present, what would the impact be on them?
7. What would be the impact on wetlands?

The Conservation members generally agree with the consensus of the Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee.

This project proposal will be addressed at the November 7, 2018 Planning Board Public Hearing at 7:00 PM. at the Farmington Town Hall.

The Conservation members reviewed the following Planning Board applications:

- A. Old Castle Lawn and Garden, whose property is located in the Towns of Farmington and Manchester. This application is for the outdoor storage of landscaping materials that are packaged for sale in factory bags and stored on pallets wrapped in plastic.

There are approximately 50,000 pallets that will be stored on the property in both the towns of Farmington and Manchester.

The Conservation members did not have any comments.

- B. Preliminary Plan, W. C. Premiere Properties, Sand Hill and Route 96, Farmington. Three parcel subdivision. Property will be divided into a 5 acre lot with an existing house and barn, 2 acre lot, and an 8 acre lot.

The Conservation members had the following comment:

1. How are lots 1 & 4 accessed?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM

The next meeting will be held on **November 26, 2018 at 7:00 PM.**

Mary Richter, Clerk of the Board recorded the minutes.