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LAST

From: "James Foley"
To: nfalanga@rochester.rr.com
Cc:
Sent: Wednesday September 16 2020 3:26:11PM
Subject: Re: Calvin Martin Solar Energy Yes or No

Rec'd. FROM
Jim FALANGA
9/16/20 JR

Please present the following to the Town of Farmington Planning Board tonight as I do not feel comfortable attending in person during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Points

1. Proposed resolution to close public hearing on site plan. Object on basic principle that this is not a public hearing and it is impossible in a pandemic to properly allow citizen participation. An example is the site plan that I have just got to see where DRS proposes a prison fence as its method of shielding from public view the industrial solar power plant. Aside from the incredible adverse impact of an industrial power plant, is DRS and this Board planning to make it as ugly as possible? This would be an item, if we could have a public hearing that I am sure many citizens would wish to discuss. They might also want to discuss that DRS constantly denied that they would erect such a fence and would have a beautiful fencing scheme with large plantings that would shield the view.

2. Moratorium. We now know that the Town Board has approved a moratorium because there are issues with the Solar Law. It is my understanding that the PB will be the lead agency to correct these issues. However, nowhere is there any articulating of what the issues are, do we get that information prior to the law being amended so we can have input? Will there be a public hearing? Finally, on this DRS project there are no approvals yet decided on, either the special use permit or the site plan. How did DRS get excluded from the moratorium? This is especially vexing when minutes of this Board indicate that it was during the public hearings on the DRS application that the issues with the Solar Law became apparent. Just as we made the request for a moratorium many, many months ago based upon the deficits that we identified in the law as well as the direct conflict with the zoning change and existing Town Law and mandates to protect agricultural land. We again ask that all projects be subject to the moratorium. How, when the Town government recognizes issues with the solar law can anything be approved?

3. Answers. In whatever manner this Board decides, answers to these questions should be made part of the record.