

Town of Danville
Draft Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2022 7:30pm Danville Town Hall

Attendance: Glenn Herrin, Kate Whitehead, Vince Foy, David Kyle, Michael Hogue, Rob Balivet

Guests: Geoff Martin (Norwich Solar), Martha Staskus (Norwich Solar), Marc Brunell

Glenn opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Minutes

MOTION: Vince Foy made a motion to approve the minutes of November. Motion Carried.

Danville Pumpkin Hill Solar Project

Norwich Solar shared a draft plan of a proposed solar array project for a residential property on Pumpkin Hill Road. The property is off of 2B and the solar array is sited behind the house and is not visible from neighboring properties or the road. The solar array has a footprint of 2.4 acres. The land will be leased and it will be installed for 25 years with the option of (2) 5 year extensions. There are decommissioning requirements re: removal of infrastructure, disposal, etc. The property would need to be designated as a preferred site to participate in and/or apply for the net-metering program.

MOTION: Michael made a motion that the project aligns with the Town Plan. Motion Carried.

PC discussed adding language to the Town Plan re: solar project benefits to Town residents & informing neighbors of proposed projects.

Glenn will inform the SB about the PCs support of the proposed array.

Committee Updates

PC will meet with Dave Schilling on 12/28 to explore collaboration between Train Station project & the Danville Works program. Construction Manager RFQ is out and proposals are due on 12/14.

Vacancy and Officer Nominations

PC discussed officer nominations. Glenn will stay on as Chair and Kate as Secretary. Rob expressed interest in joining the Commission. Officers will be elected at the next meeting.

Rules of Procedure

The PC reviewed and discussed the draft 2023 Rules of Procedure. Glenn will make edits (i.e. remove proxy vote language). PC will continue to discuss in January.

Town Report

Glenn shared a draft of the write-up for the Town Report. A piece on the Train Station project will be included.

Town Meeting Survey

A short survey (10 or less questions) will be distributed at Town Meeting. PC will discuss survey questions in January re: short term rentals, solar.

Town Plan Update

David shared an overview of the *Danville Enhanced Energy Plan*. The PC decided that the plan would be a standalone vs integrated into the Town Plan. The Enhanced Energy Plan is separated in 4 sections: Transportation, Thermal, Electrical, Renewable Energy Resources. NVDA has reviewed the draft plan and provided feedback to ensure its consistent with the regional plan, state energy plan & state regulations.

The *Solar Energy Facilities Restrictions*: [pg. 14] lists known & possible constraints and regulations as well as regional plan and Danville Restrictions.

Small Scale Solar/Solar generation systems ≤150 kW

- Small scale solar project (7kW) provides annual electricity needs for residential homes. Small scale solar is strongly supported – no constraints/restrictions if on a preferred site (PUC Rule 5.103).
- Add caveat to small scale solar project process. If the system is free standing - reasonable concerns raised by abutters will be addressed and decided on by PC. If solar array is roof mounted move forward with no constraints.
- PC discussed how zoning setbacks or local ordinance might apply. Free standing solar array projects will need to go through the DRB as a conditional use. If the solar array project is ≥150 kW the developer should notify the abutters. Neighboring property owners should be provided with a site plan.

Solar Generation Systems ≥150

- Discussed restrictions for Rte. 2 Corridor. No part of any solar project may be visible within 1,000 ft. of a passenger vehicle traveling on this road in Danville. Projects will need to be well shielded. This applies to projects moving forward and will not be retroactive. Discussed ridges and public vantage points; discussed including the language about visual mitigations and screenings (pg.15, #5) and including it in the intro for Land Restrictions.

David mentioned renewable energy funding that is being made available to municipalities. PC discussed ideas and developing a proposal for how funding could be used, encouraging and supporting small scale solar and residential and commercial owner incentives.

Adjourned 9:58pm

Next meeting: January 26, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Danville Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted by Kate Whitehead