



Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428


**SELECT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY
October 4th, 2022
6:00 PM
MINUTES**


PUBLIC HEARING

Solar Energy Ordinance


Chairman Ray Wood, Jr. opened the public hearing at 6 p.m., stating that anyone wishing to speak could do so for three minutes each for the first round of comments and we can do a second round if need be. Eddington resident Peter Lyford said he supports the Planning Boards ordinance and pointed out that the way the legislature has been written some of these solar companies are getting 400% over the standard offer. According to him, subsidies on wind and solar, at the state level, are reaching one billion dollars which also means when somebody get's something for free, somebody else has to pay for it. Lyford does not think that these solar projects (or wind) are good for the town of Eddington.

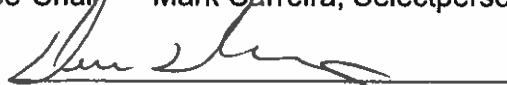
David Peppard, the chair of the planning board and a resident, stated that he and his board members have been working on this for 13 months or so. Peppard explained that there were a lot of factors figured into the finished product. They reviewed at least 12 other towns' ordinances and took parts from several. He believes it is a good ordinance and that there is nothing to say its perfect or that changes can't be made down the road if the towns people believe changes should be made.


Ray Wood, Jr. - Chairperson


David McCluskey, Vice-Chair


Mark Carreira, Selectperson



Pam Chapman, Selectperson



Deana Doughty, Selectperson

Bob Cleaves from Dirigo Solar, based in Portland, Maine. He commended the Board on the work they did with the Ordinance as well as the considerations that were made by the town with these issues, considering they aren't always straightforward. As for the Community Solar issue and the subsidies mentioned by Peter Lyfrod, Cleaves wanted to clarify that his company is not proposing these kinds of projects and that he does not receive the state subsidies. Mr. Cleaves said his company hopes to do a project in the town and endorses the ordinance that the Planning Board has created.


Former Dedham resident and Planning Board chair, Rodney Kelshaw, stated that he works for Flycatcher LLC which is an Environmental Consultant Co, based in Yarmouth, Maine. He has been working with One Energy on a proposed project in town. He commended the Planning Boards efforts with the ordinance then referred to a letter he had provided at the last Planning Board meeting listing three things/tweaks they would like to see in the ordinance. As Kelshaw pointed out, the project they are working on would not be allowed under the proposed ordinance due to the zone it is in. He pointed out there was no impact to farmland soil, the lot has been cleared in the last 20yrs, it already has an access road and falls in line with the towns land use goals to protect natural resources.


The solar developer with One Energy Renwables, Steve Griffith, who has been working with Rodney, spoke after and explained that they had not been in front of any formal permitting board because the projects take time and even though they have been working on this project since 2020, they just recently completed the electrical engineering analysis with versant. He explained community solar projects from his standpoint, the size of the footprint of his project and why there would be no impact, as was as how it would expands access to solar for folks who otherise cant afford to pursue solar and allow them to participate in a local energy project. He believes his project alinges with the objective of keeping things rural would like to see the Planning Board avoid "blanket prohibitions" and evaluate each project on its merits and how it is proposed.


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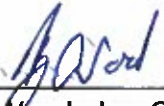
David Peppard spoke again to explain the reason they voted to limit the number of various sized solar farms in different districts was to keep Eddington rural and get a little more educated about solar vs. allowing anything and everything in any zone right now.

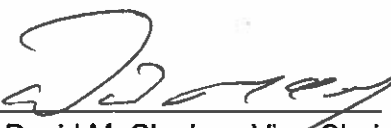
James Lebrecque, previous energy advisor to Gov. Lepage for eight years, spoke and encouraged the town to hold off on allowing everything at once, and paying attention to the information over the next couple of years to learn about real consequences vs what benefits are. The land will be there next year and years beyond and encouraged the board to take their time and learn more so they will be able to make informed decisions.

Scott Newhart, Planning Board member spoke about how other towns have prohibited everything and how Eddington has created an ordinance that is fair and protective to strike a balance of what's persevering the make up of the town, state, wildlife protection and to say were not shutting it out but we are not making it a free for all either. There was a lot of input and requests that were mulled over very thoroughly. Newhart thanked Bob Cleaves for his information and input over the past year, stating that he was definitely not self serving as he also asked for things that didnt make it in return some things may have even hindered certain parts of his own project.


Peter Lyford said he wanted to make it clear that he wasn't opposed to solar or wind but what he was opposed to is the town / citizens of Eddington paying for someone else's project. He also commented on the effect these projects have had on wildlife, carbon reduction and the mass destruction of forests.


Susan Dunham Shane, Planning Board member and resident said how she appreciates everyone's thoughts no matter what they were. She explained the process of the ordinance and how it took a little longer than expected because they were trying to take all things into consideration. She explained that the Select board will vote to sign the warrant and then it will be up to the people of Eddington to decide whether they want this ordinance or not. She also pointed out that if the town doesn't want a solar farm, not having an ordinance won't stop a solar farm.


Ray Wood, Jr. - Chairperson


David McCluskey, Vice-Chair


Mark Carreira, Selectperson


Pam Chapman, Selectperson


Deana Doughty, Selectperson

Bruce Griffiths questioned the where the access road would be to the proposed farm on the Davis Road. Ray Wood said that would be a question once the application has been submitted to the Planning Board.

Request for Surplus Funds

Susan Shane said she supports the appropriation request, however, questions the last sentence in the Article requesting the \$200,000 from Surplus. She felt that any amount not used should automatically go back into surplus. Shawna explained the reason for this was because there were a couple of roads (Nickerson/Pond) that will require work/pavement next year and if there was anything left it be used for this purpose. Ray Wood, Jr. said this is the intent to keep it specifically for road use, not anything else. After a brief discussion about the proper way to present it, it was decided that we should add Highway or Road Maint to the last sentence to read - Funds that are not used could be returned to surplus or used to help with additional **highway or road maintenance projects**” as best determined by the Select Board.

David Peppard asked what the current amount was in the towns surplus, Shawna stated it was roughly 1.2 million at this time. Dianna Chestnut from Sweets Hill Road asked where her road fell on the maintenance list. Shawna explained that this amount wasn't designated for any particular area, and that this request was basically a cushion to get us through the rest of the fiscal year.

At 6:33 pm, the public hearing was closed.


CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE: Ray Wood, Jr. called meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All board members were present

NEW BUSINESS: Motion was made, seconded, and passed to sign the warrant for the Special Town meeting, with the wording corrected under Article #3 to include the words Highway and Road Maintenance projects in the last sentence, as discussed/decided during the Public Hearing. **M. Carreira / P. Chapman Vote 5-0.**




Ray Wood, Jr. - Chairperson




David McCluskey, Vice-Chair



Mark Carreira, Selectperson



Pam Chapman, Selectperson





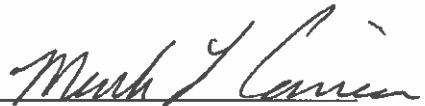

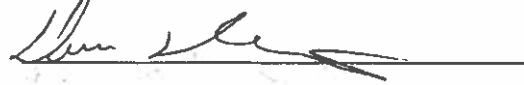
Deana Doughty, Selectperson

OTHER BUSINESS: Next meeting, October 18th, 2022 - Special Town Meeting
October 25th, 2022 - Regular Selectmens Meeting

PUBLIC ACCESS: Dianna Chesnut asked if there are intentions to use any of the surplus funds on the Sweets Hill Road, if approved at Town Meeting. Shawna assured her the rough spots and recent washouts were due to be fixed ASAP.

David Peppard told the Board he had been a Town Manager and knows what its all about and just wanted to compliment Shawna to the board as he feels she is doing a great job.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. D. McCluskey / D. Doughty
Vote 5-0.

 _____ Ray Wood, Jr. - Chairperson	 _____ David McCluskey, Vice-Chair	 _____ Mark Carreira, Selectperson
 _____ Pam Chapman, Selectperson	 _____ Deana Doughty, Selectperson	

