

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Inland, Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
and the Planning and Zoning Commission
April 21, 2016**

The Joint Meeting of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency and the Planning and Zoning Commission was held on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at the Town Office Building.

Kevin Grindle called the Meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present for the Inland, Wetlands and Watercourses Agency: Stan Crawford, Chairman; Glen Newcombe. Not Present: Dave Goodrich, Muriel Miller, Martin Mlyniec, Sue Martin (alternate).

Present for the Planning and Zoning Commission: Kevin Grindle, Chairman; Gary DeCesare; Sue Hochstetter; Ev Hyde; Gloria Langer; Randy Thompson. Not Present: Wayne Decarli (alternate).

Staff and Others Present: John Valente, Wetlands Enforcement Officer; Martha Frankel, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Selectmen Michael Chapel and Bob Grindle; Steve Broyer, Project Manager for Ecos Energy; Dayna McDermott-Arriola, IWWA Recording Secretary.

Presentation by Project Manager Steve Broyer and Solicitation of Comments: Notice of Petition to the CT Siting Council by Ecos Energy for approval of the construction and operation of a 10-megawatt solar photovoltaic energy generating facility on property owned by Estate of Peter Freiman on the south side of Route 6 and west of Fisk Road. The proposed application uses 39.7 acres of a 100 acre parcel for installation of the solar equipment. Comments from the Town of Hampton must be submitted to the Siting Council by April 22, 2016.

Steve Broyer presented an overview of the project. Ecos Energy will own and operate the facility. Maximum development of the site allows for eight megawatts of electricity to be produced with south facing panels. The project will be implemented in two phases and will require improvements to Fisk Road, limited grading, and erosion control measures. Avoidance of rock outcroppings and stone walls might necessitate the project to shift south. The latest iteration of the plan presented at the Meeting was the result of the site walk conducted with local officials in the morning, when the actual siting of the solar field became evident during the physical survey of the terrain. Concerns raised by Eversource, state and local officials will continue to be addressed and result in continual revisions of the plan. The State Siting Council permits the project at the conceptual plan phase.

Wetlands Enforcement Officer John Valente agreed that the morning's site walk was mutually beneficial, with revisions to the original plan utilizing larger, flatter areas with the least environmental impact. Mr. Valente expressed his continued concerns with soil erosion control, specifically the need for detailed plans for the removal of vegetation and the sequencing of construction, the location and size of detention pools, and the monitoring of the project by the Storm Water section of the Department of Environmental Protection due to their limited staffing. He requested that local oversight be allowed to monitor the stages of construction and report to Ecos Energy.

Mr. Broyer responded that the project is also reviewed by lenders and third party engineers and that additional checks and balances would be beneficial. He also assured that hydraulic calculations will be analyzed with respect to all facets of construction as it relates to possible erosion.

Planning and Zoning Chairman Kevin Grindle praised the efforts of Mr. Broyer in addressing concerns raised. He requested an overview of the phasing component of the project.

Mr. Broyer's responded that the access road would be established first and that one side of the road would be developed at a time. In preparing the site, tree stumping would occur first, then the clearing of smaller growth, along with stabilization of the site and the installation of detention areas and basins, and silt

fencing, all of which must be in place, per the regulations, before soil disturbance occurs. The duration of construction is three months, dry periods being optimum times for construction.

Randy Thompson, identifying the area as a wildlife corridor, advocated timbering in winter to minimize the impact on wildlife.

Ev Hyde voiced concern over building basins sufficient to accommodate the velocity of storm water.

Mr. Broyer explained that the Siting Council would require a hydraulic report.

In response to other concerns raised by IWWA and PZC officials, Mr. Broyer said that a decommissioning plan would be part of the submitted plan, including a cost analysis for removal of panels, which would be delivered to a recycling center. He also assured that there would be continual maintenance under the supervision of a master electrician, and that there will be a meeting with the Fire Marshall regarding fire suppression. Beyond locked mechanisms and camera monitoring, security measures, such as fencing, are still being explored.

May 5, 2016 is the deadline to submit comments to the Siting Council. John Valente and Zoning Enforcement Officer Martha Frankel will summarize the concerns aired and submit these to the Council. Mr. Broyer assured that the proposal is an evolving plan which intends to take into consideration all concerns raised to incorporate into the 60% footprint.

Audience for Citizens: Adjoining land owner Tim Huchthausen expressed total satisfaction with the project after meeting with Steve Broyer.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dayna McDermott-Arriola
IWWA Recording Secretary