

Minutes for the Town of Sennett Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at the Town of Sennett Office Building.

Members: Bob Edmunds, Vice Chair
David Sikora
Jeffrey Hofmann
Harold Gilfus, Alt.

Norman Chirco, Esq.

Julie Panna and Marion Cool are absent

Bob opens the meeting at 7:01 with the Pledge. Bob asks if everyone received the minutes from the February meeting. Jeff makes a motion to approve the minutes, Dave seconds. Minutes approved.

Next is a public hearing for the Abundant Solar Company. They previously had a special use permit approved on June 27, 2019 but the permit has since expired. The board needs to review documentation and decide whether or not they should renew the permit and for how long the permit will be valid.

Bob Steehler from LaBella Associates and Melissa Clark from Abundant Solar are meeting with the board via Zoom.

The project is still covered under the previous SEQR, Abundant Solar submitted the application to the Codes Department. There are only a few changes to the application. The wattage has been lowered, spacing between arrays may change since it is determined by the manufacturer of the arrays. They will be using tracker arrays. Tracker arrays follow the movement of the sun; they move slow so movement of the arrays is unnoticeable. The old permit was for 28.3 acres, the new permit is for 24.4 acres, so the size was reduced by approximately 4 acres. Dave verified the size for the current paperwork, stating that the correspondence from the County Attorney says 25.4 acres, Abundant Solar clarifies that the actual size is 24.4 acres.

There have been product delays due to Covid that slowed their project down. Melissa expects it will take about 2-3 months to close with the financiers and then they would like to begin the build. Bob asks how the movement of the arrays is tracked. Melissa says it functions like a GPS; the tracking mechanism is geographically located—there is

remote flagging of errors in which Abundant Solar would utilize a local electrician to go fix.

The site is not in an Agricultural district, but the abutting farms are. Harold clarifies to Melissa that only 3 farms are listed in the plans, but there are actually 4 farms that are adjacent to the property. Melissa thanks Harold for the clarification.

Melissa says the financial close is projected for April, then they need to acquire the materials and want to break ground in early Summer.

They have paid for the building permit, they are just waiting for ZBA approval.

Bob recommends that the permit expire in June 2022. Passarello will grant a permit next week to expire on June 27, 2022. Bob asks more a motion to extend the permit previously granted to Abundant Solar with the permit expiration date set at June 27, 2022. Dave makes the motion, Jeff seconds, all ayes.

Bob asks if there is any other old business, there is none. He asks if there is any new business—none.

Bob makes a motion to adjourn, Dave seconds. All ayes.

Ed Magdziak is present on Zoom and says that the board didn't ask for the public to be heard. The board was unaware that there was anyone on Zoom besides Bob Steehler and Melissa Clark, as they were the only ones who asked to speak and there were no members of the public present in the room to hear from.

Bob makes a motion to reopen the meeting so Ed can speak on behalf of the public. Jeff seconds, all ayes.

The floor is opened for Ed to speak. He says he doesn't have comments regarding the project or other business but wanted to ensure the board checks Zoom for other meeting attendees. Dave thanks Ed for the recommendation and suggests this recommendation be utilized in future meetings.

Dave makes a motion to adjourn, Harold seconds, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Driscoll, Secretary