

Norfolk Conservation Commission, PO Box 552, Norfolk CT 06058
Special Meeting Minutes, Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: Solar Installation on Norfolk Town Farm

In attendance: John Anderson, Libby Borden, Martha Klein, Nash Pradhan, Susannah Wood.

Meeting Called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Susannah drafted a letter in response to P&Z solicitation for our input.

Martha expressed concern that nearly 80% of commercial solar installations in CT (and MA) are constructed on farms and forests, and asked Kirt Mayland why. Kirt explained in an email that expense is a primary driver.

The town would get \$45,000 per year for this project; this payment increases according to a negotiated agreement.

Nash asked why Lodestar is requesting to build on the second area and not just on disturbed old landfill? Susannah believes that there wasn't sufficient acreage in the first area and they needed more land to make the project financially viable. Because our geographic area was allotted 4 megawatts of AC power, if Norfolk doesn't take this project the town could lose the revenue and opportunity.

John thinks that we should limit our letter to conservation issues. One concern that could go in the letter is the conversion of farms and forest to solar projects; that is a tradeoff that should be minimized. We fully support solar on brownfield and existing open space but should highlight concerns about forest cutting for renewable energy projects.

Susannah will redraft the letter according to our discussion and share with everyone via email. Following an email vote (which will be confirmed with a voice vote at the June meeting), Susannah will submit our comments to P&Z.

Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Martha Klein

May 23, 2022