

Town of Wilton Planning Board Minutes October 5, 2023

Members Present Michael Leclair (Chair), Michael Parker, Gwen Doak, Kyle Fletcher, Ben Harnden, Keith Amato, Charlie Lavin (Alt)

Meeting called to order by Chair Leclair at 7:00.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Adopt the Agenda

M/M/S Parker/Fletcher to adopt the agenda as presented. Vote: 6-0-0

3. Review and consider adopting the minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting. M/M/S Parker/Fletcher to adopt the minutes as presented. Vote: 5-0-1

7:06 M/M/S Parker/Fletcher to open the Public Hearing for the following two Solar Arrays whose permits are close to expiring. Vote 6-0-0

USS MAPLE located at 678 Weld Rd.

Discussion:

Conrad Heeschen: Although I am in direct opposition of the solar farms as they do not effectively protect the farmland and knowing that these arrays have already been permitted and probably will be again, I would like to address the screening of the array with the use of Eastern Red Cedar. These trees can grow to a height of 30 feet, with the tallest being 53 feet, which would ultimately obscure the mountain views.

USS Maple will maintain the array with regards to over growth of vegetation and will hire a local company for winter plowing.

Rodney Hall stated that this land could be sold as a housing development and once a septic system is placed on the property it will never be farm land again. Putting in the array will ensure that the land will be farmland again in twenty years when the array is decommissioned.

M/M/S Parker/Fletcher to move to the Finding of Facts. Vote: 5-0-1

USS WELD SOLAR located at 34 Tobin Flat Rd

Discussion:

This Solar Array has been downsized by half staying under the 1mg watt thereby bypassing the cluster studies.

Concerns that the power supply has been relocated and is closer to residents. It was suggested that a berm be placed on two sides of the pad to help move the noise upwards versus outward.

M/M/S Parker/Fletcher to move to the Finding of Facts. Vote: 5-0-1

8:15 M/M/S Parker/Fletcher to close the public hearing. Vote: 5-0-1

4. Future Business

Change of use for an office space adjacent to Four-K storage.

AFCOG's Annual Planning Day is November 8th if anyone is interested in attending. Keith Howard has filled the corner lot next to Munson and Rt 2 with wood.

King and Sons has moved over 100 cubic yards of earth without a permit.

5. Other Business

6. Adjourn at 8:55pm Fletcher/Amato. Vote: 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted - Cindy Dunham