

**TOWN OF LINCOLN**  
**6886 Tuttle Road Canastota, NY 13032**  
**Town Board Meeting**  
***March 26, 2025***

***Call to Order:*** 7:00pm

***Attendance:*** Supervisor Melissa During, Peggy LeClair, Doug Holdridge, Jayne Black and Doug Fusillo via zoom.

***Others in Attendance:*** Jon Black, Mat Spendley, Mark Hogan, Ed Mills, John Schoeck, Paul Hogan, Drew Rogerson, Linda Baker and Marva Smith.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

***Continuation of Weisbrod Solar Project Public Hearing for SUP 1-24***

Doug Holdridge asked to share his thoughts on this project.

1. Not confident your projected protection for run off is adequate enough series of filtration to cover possible heavy storms or possible 100-year flood. Downhill drainage will proceed across Quarry rd. to Perryville falls then into Chittenango creek and eventually into Oneida Lake thus endangering existing fishery and eco systems present 2. The project will eliminate prime farmland from being in production as it's been in the past 100+ years, once disturbed this land will never be recaptured to its original status. with the loss of this Ag production products capability, is this worth utilization to produce energy that will most likely never be used by Madison County let alone T/Lincoln residents 3. The harvest of existing trees on property that are proposed to be cut, (which were planted with tax payers' money via a grant) will be lost forever to aid in the uptake of carbon dioxide. 4. The visualization factor from the North, West & East will still exist, to the South where a double row of conifers (Norway spruce & White Fir) is proposed to be planted. At current proposed heights, it will take 10-15 years minimum to grown together to hide the view of project. Growth rates for this species is approx. 6" per year. The species proposed to be planted have been designated invasive species by the plant atlas of the us. They are also susceptible to disease (spider mites, rust disease, cyrospora canker to name a few, which can invade another neighboring mature forest. To fully assist in the view obstruction from the South along Ray rd. it would be benefit that view to have those trees planted atop a substantial earthen berm. 5. Concerns exist that the materials to create the solar panels are imported from China & elsewhere then built in the US, are these materials not available in the US which would allow those monies to remain here vs going overseas. Also, that these panels do contain heavy metal like Lead for instance. The entire T/Lincoln sits on a huge limestone foundation where numerous fissures exist that could allow possible containments to travel miles underground if these panels were compromised in some way from an act of nature/God or vandalism. 6. I haven't seen any documentation, though it may exist, of contact being made with the Oneida Indian Nation or shippo to determine these lands hold no historic importance as confirmed lands nearby have been noted as inhabited by the Oneidas from years long past. 7. In the case of a fire at the site, I question if our local fire dept. is capable of safely combatting this situation to protect not only them but area residents from possible smoke and airborne contamination, as this technology is still relatively new, necessary training to control an emergency situation is

still being developed. Even with these above concerns I understand that the minimum requirements of our local solar law have been met and that the new laws enacted by the state of NY that tends to favor these types of projects, that to expend large amounts of taxpayers money to attempt to address these concerns when the unique possibility exists of the Town being overrode by NYS in a decision doesn't seem a wise use of said taxpayers money. Therefore, I reluctantly a better resolution would be to allow this project to proceed but under strict adherence to All contractual agreements to ensure the safety of All Lincoln residents for the foreseeable future.

Supervisor During provided the following:

#### **TOWN OF LINCOLN BOARD FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS**

Applicant: Weisbrod Solar, I-LC - Solar Project Type: Special Use Permit Property:

5900 Quarry Road, Canastota, New York 13032 Tax Map: 60.-1-21.1

General issue Summary: The subject property under consideration consists of one tax parcel totaling approximately 7.12 +/- acres of land located east side of Quarry Road and north of Ray Road. The subject property abuts single-family residential properties on its south side. The parcel is agricultural in nature with a residence and some farm buildings located on it, but is otherwise unimproved. The applicant is special use permit for the construction of a Tier 3 solar array, as the same is defined in the Town of Lincoln Solar Energy Law. The surrounding area is used for agricultural and residential purposes. Increased traffic is not a concern with this project and a traffic study was not conducted. Site Plan Approved: At the January 14, 2025 Planning Board Meeting, the Lincoln Planning Board approved the applicant's site plan application. The Planning Board recommended factors for the Town Board to consider as part of the special use permit application process. The applicant provided a letter responding to these concerns. These concerns and the applicant's responses were reviewed by the Town Engineer, who found the responses to be reasonable and noted that the applicant included New York State Agricultural and Markets guidance regarding protection of farmland topsoil in solar installations as part of their design standards. Public Hearings Conducted: The Town of Lincoln conducted two informational and official public hearings (February 12, 2025 and March 12, 2025) addressing the application for a special use permit. Some members of the public and/or the Town Board raised, among others, the following concerns of note: 1. The presence of hazardous chemicals, such as cadmium, lead, and/or PFAS in the panels. 2. The potential introduction of hazardous chemicals into the Madison County Landfill following decommissioning. 3. The potential impact, if any, of recent presidential executive orders on the project. 4. The potential impact of the project on a conservation grant on the subject property. 5. The manufacturing origin of the solar panels 6. Screening and potential visual impacts 7. Stormwater runoff and compliance with the SWPPP. To the extent possible, the foregoing concerns have been addressed by the applicant. The Town Engineer reviewed the responses and found them to be reasonable, accurate, and appropriate, though she recommended changes to the visual screening, to which the applicant agreed. FINDINGS 1. This application for a special use permit is properly classified as a Type I Action for the purpose of SEQRA compliance. 2. During the process the Town investigated the potential environmental impacts and decided that the applicant's Full Environmental Assessment Form is sufficient and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. 3. The project was reviewed by the Madison County Planning Department which determined that the project would have no significant adverse inter-county or countywide implications. The Department noted that the project is sited on prime farmland. 4. As previously set forth, proposed measures to protect and conserve farmland topsoil are part of the project specifications. 5. The Town Engineer reviewed the following and found them to be in compliance

with the Town of Lincoln Solar Energy Law: a. Application for Site Plan Approval; b. Site Plan Application; c. Building Permit Application and Revised SEQRA Negative Declaration; d. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan dated November 2023 and revised October 2024; e. Weisbrod Equipment Sheets; f. Weisbrod Decommissioning Plan dated February 2024 and revised September 2024; and g. Weisbrod Solar Preliminary Site Plans dated May 2022 and revised October 2024. 6. The Town of Lincoln Solar Energy Law is one of the most stringent in New York State and has requirements which greatly exceed those found in the NYSEDA Model Solar Energy Law. The applicant has met all requirements set forth in the Town of Lincoln Solar Energy Law. 7. Accordingly, there is no basis for the Town Board to deny the application for a special use permit for a Tier 3 solar array. **CONCLUSION** The Town Board hereby adopts these FINDINGS and FINDS that the applicant's application for a special use permit should be and hereby is GRANTED.

**Resolution 44-2025:** Motion to accept the TOWN OF LINCOLN BOARD FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS and therefore approving the special use permit SUP 1-24 was made by a roll call.

Peggy Leclair -	yes
Jane Black -	yes
Doug Holdridge -	yes
Doug Fusillo -	yes
Melissa During -	yes

***OCWA Agreement:***

Doug Holdridge had several concerns about the agreement as written. He would like clarification on the town's responsibilities as well as those of the water districts. Supervisor During will look into getting an OCWA representative to come to a town board meeting for clarification. The topic was tabled for further review.

**Resolution 45-2025:** Motion to table OCWA discussion was made by Doug Holdridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Doug Fusillo, carried.

***On Call Engineer:***

The board discussed the quotes from the two companies that responded to our request for quotes. All agreed to being happy with the work of C&S Engineers.

**Resolution 46-2025:** Motion to allow supervisor During to sign an agreement with C&S for the towns on call engineer was made by Doug Holdridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peggy LeClair, carried.

***Zoning Application and Fee Schedule:***

This topic was tabled for further review.

***Board Appointments:***

**Resolution 47-2025:** Motion to appoint Mark Elford to the Assessment Board of Review was made by Peggy LeClair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Doug Holdridge, carried.

**Resolution 48-2025:** Motion to appoint Doug Eddy to the ZBA was made by Doug Holdridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jayne Black, carried.

**Resolutions 49-2025:** Motion to appoint Heather Whalen Smith to the Planning Board was made by Peggy LeClair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jayne Black, carried.

**Resolution 50-2025:** Motion to appoint Jim Jones to the ZBA was made by Peggy LeClair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jayne Black, carried.

**Resolution 51-2025:** Motion to appoint Wayne Brothers to the Planning Board was made by Doug Holdridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jayne Black, carried.

***Public Comment:***

Mark Hogan reiterated his issues with the Weisbrod solar project as he lived across the road from the site. Concerns include damage to his well, decreased property values, Ray road's ability to handle to construction traffic and dust during construction. Mark feels he and his rural community are having the project forced on them because there aren't many people available to oppose it.

Resident Ed Mills expressed his disappointment with the town board and their approval of the project.

Doug Holdridge explained If the project was denied, the town would likely be sued. According to the town's attorney, the town has a less than 5% chance of winning such a lawsuit. Additionally, this project was applied for before the towns solar law was in place. If a similar application was applied for today, the town has legal footing to fight such a project.

Doug Fusillo, again explained the town has no legal ground to deny the application. The applicant has been trying to get approval for the last 5 years. While some board member expressed concerns the project, the applicant met all the requirements of our local laws. Without a legally justifiable reason for denial, they faced the possibility of litigation, which factored into the board's decision.

**Resolution 52-2025:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:45 pm by Peggy LeClair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jayne Black, carried.