

Public Hearing of the 2024 Solar Moratorium Law Meeting Minutes

Held: Tuesday April 17, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.

Location: 7578 County Route 333 Thurston, NY

Present: Michael Volino, Holly Chase, Noel Sylvester, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave, Rachel Treichler, Diana Dixon, Nick Nolton, Randy Akins

Visitors: Caleb Cook, Caleb Tietje, Ruth Schoonover, Wendy Lozo, Glenn Francis, Marge Taft, Sam Dick, Lisa Hargrave, Jeff Sweeney, Monica Sweeney, Eva Turner, Elizabeth Donderewicz, Theresa Borhman, Reginald Rice, Tom Stephens, Helen Stephens, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad, Mary Gross, Leo Gross, Neil Henshaw

Michael Volino called the public hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. The Board opened with the pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Volino read the Legislative Findings and Purpose of the proposed Local Law #2 of the year 2024. Establishing a Moratorium on Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems in the Town of Thurston. The moratorium is designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the Town of Thurston. Tier 3 solar systems have to be approved by the Town Board therefore the moratorium will give the Town Board members time to research the requirements for tier 3 solar energy systems. Supervisor Volino read a letter from Reactivate Solar Co. Reactivate Solar Co is interested in putting a solar energy system on the Knowles road in the Town of Thurston. Jim Morse a Thurston town resident lives on Lewis road next to the Nexamp solar energy system. Jim explained the complications involved with living next to such a large solar energy system. Mr. and Mrs. Gross also live next to the Nexamp solar system on Lewis road. They explained there is excessive noise and glare from the panels which constantly move. The other subject discussed is whether or not the panels leak toxic material and who is responsible to clean it up. Monica Sweeney read a letter explaining the reasons why the Sweeney's are interested in installing a solar energy system on their property. Caleb Cook stated that the land owners still pay the tax on the land and the solar company pays a percentage through a pilot program to the town. Daniel Gee asked if a representative from Reactivate Solar Co was present to answer some questions. No one from Reactivate was present.

With no further discussion motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. Put to vote: Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk