

Planning Board
Town of Hinsdale, NH
Town Hall
Meeting October 18, 2022

Board Members: Sandra Golden, James Mitchell, CDC Lynch, Selectman Rep. William Hodgman, Chair Sean Leary and Mike Darcy were present. Ann Diorio and Tom Woodbury were excused. The applicant and two members of the public were present.

6pm Chair Leary called the meeting to order and read the Application for Minor Subdivision Development Review, submitted by Chariot Solar LLC, tax map 24 lot 103, Land/Only Monument Rd, in the Industrial District, applicant proposes to create 1 acre lot and 1.29-acre lot to be conveyed to the utility company for the project substation and point of interconnection.

M. Darcy made a motion to accept the application. He was seconded by S. Golden. The motion passed unanimously.

Connie Lane, Attorney from Orr & Reno, representing Chariot Solar was present. Ms. Lane explained that there is one large parcel to be subdivided into three. The three lots will be a 113-acre lot, one acre lot and one point twenty-nine-acre lot. National Grid will put electric back into the grid. The need to own the piece of land, there cannot be an easement or lease. There will be two different utilities that will be sharing the access road. The road will not be paved. The road will only be used by the utility owners and Chariot Solar. There will only be structures and wires so no need for water or sewer. The application to the SCC has begun and will take about 14 months. This subdivision is the most critical at this time. Other subdivisions and boundary adjustments between land owners will happen later.

Public Questions: Joseph Driscoll, 120 Fox Run, asked if the project has been approved. When he attended the public meeting last year with Chariot, he asked them questions and left all of his contact information and they never returned his call. He wanted to know where the solar panels are from, if they are from China, they cause cancer. He wanted assurance that the panels would not affect the water wells in the area. He does not see how this project benefits Hinsdale in any way and thinks the panels are an eye sore.

Chair Leary explained that the project does not even need to go through the Planning Board process, these meetings are out of courtesy to the Town. This meeting was about a subdivision of land, not the project itself.

Bob Harcke explained that he is glad to hear the project is moving forward and feels that it is very beneficial to the town to have a solar producer.

Chair Leary also explain that Chariot and the Town have a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement, and that means revenue for the Town and that is beneficial to the Town. He also explained over 70 certified notices were sent to the area's abutters.

Mr. Driscoll felt that was comparable to Obama Care.

Board Questions:

J. Mitchell asked if the plan changed in any way from the last meeting, (no).

M. Darcy made a motion to approve the subdivision. He was seconded by J. Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously.

The projects mylar was signed and given to Connie Lane to record at Cheshire County Registry of Deeds.

S. Golden made a motion to approve the minutes dated 9-20-2022. She was seconded by J. Mitchell. The motion passed with M. Darcy abstaining.

Chair Leary suggested that at the next meeting the Board discuss the sign ordinance and the brightness of lumens per sq. ft.

The Board read a letter from the Town of Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission pertaining to the reopening of the Old Schell Bridge. They would like a letter of support from the Planning Board. M. Darcy made a motion to have the Chair draft a letter of support. He was seconded by J. Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously.

With there being no further business to come before the meeting, Selectman Hodgman made a motion to adjourn. He was seconded by M. Darcy. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Lynch