

Planning Board
Town of Hinsdale, NH
Town Hall
Meeting August 16, 2022

Board Members: Chair Sean Leary, Sandra Golden, Mike Darcy, Ann Diorio, Selectman Representative William Hodgman, James Mitchell and CDC Lynch. Tom Woodbury was excused. The applicant and Todd Horner from SWRPC were present.

6pm Chair Leary called the meeting to order for an Application for an Optional Informal Discussion with Board submitted by Revision Energy, Map 20 Lot 5, Land/Only Plain Rd., in the Rural Agricultural District. Statement of Purpose: Development of a ground mounted solar array for the production of renewable energy.

Tyler Mills representing Revision Energy explained that the parcel is about 19 acres. The lot is behind Monteiro and Carpenter Drive. Revision Energy has been in service since 2008 and is based out of S. Portland ME. The solar array proposed will be 2.5 megawatts. They will be selling the off take of energy to Cheshire County to supplement their energy at the nursing home and county jail. Kevin Conroy applied and received a variance from the zoning board to permit a solar array in the Rural Agricultural District. There is no flood plain. There is a small wetland area in the northwest corner of the property that will be worked around. This information was from the Wetland Delineation Plan. The plan to connect to the three-phase power on Plain Road. They should have the System Impact Study back from Eversource by September 1st. They are also performing a Transmission Study. They are working on an Alteration of Terrain Permit, they hired an engineer from Concord NH. The plan to create an access road from Plain Road which will be about 60' in length and have a turn around. They plan to fence in the area. They plan to bury the connections to Plain Road. Tyler wanted the set back explained for the RA District. (20' from property lines and 35' from the road).

Chair Leary explained that a solar ordinance was discussed in the past but the board felt a better way to handle solar was via application to the Planning Board.

M. Darcy explained that if the array is under 5 megawatts it is under the Planning Boards purview, if Eversource allows a project to connect to the three-phase power. The site plan will need the plan for run off mitigation, maintenance of the land (how to keep clean), decommission plan and how to safely keep people out of the area.

Todd Horner from SWRPC passed out suggestions of consideration for the edits of Master Plan Chapter 4 (attached to approved minutes). Also included were possible grants to look into. CDC Lynch will discuss with TA Collins.

M. Darcy made a motion to approve the minutes dated 7-19-2022. He was seconded by A. Diorio. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leary informed the Board that he will not be in attendance for September's meeting.

With there being no further business to come before the meeting, A. Diorio made a motion to adjourn. She was seconded by M. Darcy. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Lynch