

**TOWN OF SOMERSET
PLANNING BOARD
OCTOBER 4, 2018**

Present: Chris Czelusta
Krista Atwater
Charles Neal
Norman Jansen
Laura Bishop
David Haylett, Counsel

Attendance: Barbara Eggert, Mark Volko, 2 residents, Councilman Hotaling and Councilwoman Bronson.

Chairman Jansen called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – EGGERT – SOLAR PROJECT – GROUND MOUNTED 8.97 kWp SOLAR PV ARRAY SYSTEM AT 7781 WEST SOMERSET ROAD

Deputy Clerk Stoloski read the notice of said public hearing that was duly published in the Lockport Union-Sun & Journal with the same notice being posted on September 18, 2018.

Mark Volko stated that it will be a standard ground mount solar array. It is a permanent structure with cement footings for the foundation. The array will generate residential power and will be grid tied so there will not be any batteries. Any power that Barbara generates, she will use. Any leftover will be put into the grid and she will get credit for it. The size of the array will be fourteen panels by two in portrait.

Councilman Hotaling asked what the footprint will be.

M. Volko responded that with a 30 degree pitch it is 9' feet front to back 47' long and 9' wide. It will be situated in her backyard.

C. Neal asked if the system would be owned or leased.

M. Volko said it will be owned by the Eggerts.

C. Neal asked who will cover the maintenance.

M. Volko stated the panels are covered by a twenty five year warranty, a twelve or thirteen year warranty on the inverters and a ten year warranty on the backing and workmanship. Not a lot of maintenance is needed. If a part goes bad it is easily fixed.

C. Neal asked what happens if the ground freezes and heaves.

M. Volko stated that he has not had this happen so far.

Chairman Jansen asked if they were mounted on one pole.

M. Volko stated that there would be seven poles. There are two methods of construction. A concrete column, or a new way that is to ram it in with a machine. He has not tried the new method as of yet.

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Chris Czelusta asked if there would be only one disconnect.

M. Volko stated there will be a box where all the circuits and panels are combined at the array.

C. Czelusta asked if the lines from the panel to the house will be twenty eight inches deep.

M. Volko stated they would be twenty four inches deep.

C. Czelusta voiced concern about the lines not being deep enough. If the property were to be sold the new owners may not know how deep the lines are and they could possibly dig up the lines.

M. Volko said the lines would be in conduit.

C. Czelusta was satisfied that 24" would be deep enough.

Councilman Jansen stated that he is very happy with his personal solar project that is mounted on his barn.

Attorney Haylett stated the certification that was submitted with the application is dated 2016. He asked if there have been any changes to the letter that would make it unapplicable.

M. Volko replied the racking company puts the letter out.

Attorney Haylett would like a current letter.

Attorney Haylett asked which way it would be facing/tilted.

M. Volko stated 180 degrees South. The bottom lip will be 2.5' to 3' from the ground and the top of the panel is approximately 11' from the ground. Square footage will not exceed 1000'.

Attorney Haylett asked the following:

- Are there any other residences close by? No
- Is the property zoned agricultural? Yes
- How many acres is the lot? County records show .6 acres.
- What is the lifespan of the panels? They have a long warranty and are expected to be functioning long after that.
- Is there a decommissioning plan? It is up to the customer.
- Will there be access for emergency vehicles? There is a lane on the side of the house that can be used.

Krista Atwater asked if the lot is separate from the farm. The answer was yes.

Chairman Jansen closed the public hearing at 7:43pm.

EGGERT SOLAR PROJECT

Attorney Haylett reviewed SEQRA Part II.

On a motion of L. Bishop, seconded by C. Neal the following resolution was:

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Jansen, Atwater, Neal, Czelusta, Bishop

Nayes 0

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Resolved the Somerset Planning Board declares that the project will result in no major impacts and, therefore, will not cause significant damage to the environment.
A negative Declaration under SEQRA is therefore issued for this project.

SITE PLAN APPROVAL

On a motion of C. Czelusta, seconded by K. Atwater, the following resolution was:

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Jansen, Atwater, Neal, Czelusta, Bishop
Nays 0

Resolved the site plan for the Eggert Solar Project is approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion of L. Bishop, seconded by K. Atwater, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Jansen, Atwater, Czelusta, Neal, Bishop
Nays 0

Resolved the minutes of the August 7, 2018 meeting are accepted as submitted.

There being no further business, C. Czelusta moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM,
seconded by C. Neil. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Stoloski
Deputy Town Clerk