

Town of Northumberland
Public Hearing
May 11, 2023

Supervisor Willard Peck called the Public Hearing to order @ 8:00 AM. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending were Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilwoman Patricia Bryant and Supervisor Willard Peck. Councilman John DeLisle and Councilman George Hodgson were absent. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy, Building Inspector Michael Terry and Town Attorney David Brennan.

Supervisor Willard Peck informed the public that the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2023 – A local law Amending Local Law #4 of the year 2006 and Local Law #2 of 2017 for Solar Energy Facilities remained open from the April 13, 2023 Public Hearing.

Arthur White, 360 Peters Road, asked the Town Board if they had thought about installing a solar farm at the old town landfill on Peters Road. Supervisor Peck stated the Town needs to hold off placing Solar Panels on the capped landfill for a while to confirm stability. Mr. White asked what areas would be allowed freestanding/Ground-Mounted Solar Collection Systems. Supervisor Peck stated that they would be allowed in the Agricultural Protection District, Industrial and Landfill District. Mr. White asked if there would be any restrictions. Supervisor Peck stated that the lot needs to be 10 acres (for Permitted Accessory Uses), or larger and solar array can not cover more than 20% (by Special Permit Use). Mr. White stated that the Solar Companies he has talked to want a minimum of 10 acres covered with solar panels. Based on 20% the parcel would need to be a minimum of 50 acres. Mr. White stated that he felt that the proposed Local Law discriminates against a lot of the property owners in the Agricultural District. Town Attorney David Brennan stated that a property owner can always apply for a Variance with the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Peck stated that the Town had a Solar Array Local Law, but the Town's Planning Board requested more guidance when applicants are applying for a Special Use Permit. This proposed Local Law gives the Planning Board more tools.

Mr. White thanked the Town Board for listening to him this morning.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to close the Public Hearing @ 8:20 AM. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk