

TOWN OF CLARKSON PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Held at Clarkson Town Hall
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Board Members

John Jackson, Chairperson
Dave Virgilio
Harold Mundy
Daryl Fleischer *
John Culhane

Support Board Members

Richard Olson, Town Attorney *
J.P. Schepp, Town Engineer
Kevin Moore Bldg. Inspector
Anna Beardslee, Bldg. Dept. Clerk

* Excused

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Jackson called the Planning Board meeting to order at 6:58 PM and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and read through the agenda for the night.

DISCUSSION:

Applicant: Clarkson Renewables 2
Property Owner: Kathryn Hoppe
Property Address: West Avenue
Tax ID: 067.02-1-1
ACRES: 63.65
Zoning: RS-20

Applicant is requesting to install a 4.7 MW AC Community Solar Ground Mounted Array that will utilize 21.4 acres of the 63.65 existing acreage.

K. Moore began the discussion by stating where the Clarkson Renewables 2 project is in the process. He further stated the Town Board has not approved anything and no referrals have been made to the Planning Board yet.

J. Jackson stated that some of the Planning Board members were able to attend the Town Board Meeting to get more information on the project.

H. Mundy stated that the project has no battery storage and stated that he is also concerned about the screening on County Line Road.

D. Virgilio asked if battery storage was coming in the future.

J. Schepp stated that it looks like it will be something that will be happening in the future.

H. Mundy spoke about the battery temperatures being a large concern.

J. Schepp stated that the Town Board has some options, further explaining that they do not have to adopt battery storage into the code, or they could also limit the wattage.

D. Virgilio asked what the advantage of having battery storage is.

H. Mundy stated that the batteries can help give energy around the clock to the Solar Panels.

J. Schepp further stated that the batteries are used as a secondary source for energy, like a generator.

J. Jackson asked how long batteries last.

J. Schepp stated that the battery life is pretty long now.

J. Schepp stated that he wanted to go through some items on his comment letter for the solar project. He stated that he felt that Clarkson Renewables 2 should be speaking with all neighbors from the Town of Murray.

K. Moore stated that Clarkson Renewables 2 was able to speak to all neighbors and there are 2 people that did not want the Solar Project going in that location.

J. Schepp brought up the trees and spacing as well as the hedgerow on the south side. He feels that there are a lot of gaps that will need to be addressed.

K. Moore stated that Clarkson Renewables 2 is working on adding a berm to the plans, that way it would raise up the ground to screen the solar project better.

J. Schepp went through the rest of his concerns on his comment letter and stated that the Conservation Board should be sending the Part 2 and 3 of the SEQR out to Town Board and Planning Board. He explained that the Town Board will be the Lead Agency, but the recommendations for SEQR would come from Conservation Board and the Planning Board.

K. Moore asked if the project should be looked over by the Fire Department.

H. Mundy stated that they should be able to take a look at it to get their thoughts and opinions.

D. Virgilio asked K. Moore if any of the other surrounding towns had responded to the project.

K. Moore stated that no other towns responded.

J. Jackson asked if Clarkson Renewables 2 had sent over a photo simulation of the project.

K. Moore said that they had, but felt that some of the pictures did not seem very accurate, and that it would be best if board members did a site visit on their own.

K. Moore stated that the Conservation Board had concerns about the amount of trees being cleared.

J. Jackson asked K. Moore what the next step in this process would be.

K. Moore stated that Clarkson Renewables 2 would be going in front of the Town Board on September 28, 2021.

J. Jackson stated that it would most likely be on the Planning Board agenda for next meeting, October 5th.

K. Moore stated that it will be based on what the Town Board decides to do at the September 28th meeting.

MINUTES:

J. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from August 3, 2021

J. Culhane seconded.

Unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM.

J. Culhane seconded.

Unanimously carried.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting of the Planning Board will be on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM, at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Beardslee Building Department Clerk

Minutes approved on 10/5/2021