

CORNISH PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2018

The Cornish Planning Board met on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 7pm in the Cornish Town Offices. Members present were Bill Lipfert, Acting Chair, Gail McKenzie, Mary Mancuso, and Lyle Parry; Scott Baker, Selectman; and Heidi Jaarsma, Secretary.

Bill Cable, Joanna Sharf, and Caroline Storrs also attended the meeting.

Bill Lipfert called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Discussion re: Proposed Solar Siting Zoning Amendment

Heidi Jaarsma presented a draft zoning amendment to the ordinance regulating the siting of solar collection systems. Much of the language in the draft amendment was taken from the NHSEA Model Solar Zoning Ordinance which the energy committee had forwarded to the Board. Ms. Jaarsma reviewed the proposed amendment, the statutory authority supporting the amendment, and other information regarding solar siting.

The Board made the following changes to the draft:

1. Roof Mount systems may exceed 1 MW AC.
2. Move the language regarding maximum lot coverage to Article V.
3. Add language regarding underground distribution lines.
4. Require Site Plan Review only for Commercial Solar Collection Systems with a Solar Land Coverage of greater than 900 square feet.
5. Remove the parenthetical under Abandonment and Decommissioning.
6. Add to Additional Criteria for granting a special exception: Required modifications at or beyond the interconnection point.
7. Solar collection systems not connected to the grid are subject to approval by the fire chief.

Caroline Storrs said that the Zoning Board's job is made easier by clear guidelines. Suggestions were made by the Energy Committee regarding the maximum height of residential and commercial solar collection systems. Name plate capacity maximums and solar land coverage maximums for both residential and commercial systems were also discussed. The Energy Committee will research standard height for various types of solar collection systems and will return to the Board on December 20, 2018, with further suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi M. Jaarsma