

conner 3-31-17

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Conner [mailto:conner@cornell.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:15 AM
To: Bambi Avery
Subject: In support of solar farms

Dear Bambi,

Please forward my note, below, to the town supervisor, town board members, and members of the planning board. Thank you.

Fred Conner
Irish Settlement Road

March 31, 2017

Dear Town Supervisor, Town Board members, and Planning Board members,

I'm writing in support of Dryden's present and future solar-farm initiatives.

I've attended the two public hearings held thus far about Distributed Sun's proposals, and I'm gratified to hear that the majority of citizens, even the current projects' naysayers, support solar energy in principle. You, the town's appointed and elected leaders, should confidently and affirmatively act on such overwhelming community support for solar energy.

I'm further gratified to know that most objections to the solar farms can and will be mitigated by degrees, including fencing alterations, changes in setbacks, vegetative screens, and accommodations for wildlife. The developer's cooperative and quick responsiveness to neighbors' concerns is encouraging.

To be sure, though, residents' biggest objection seems to be the solar farms' locations. But that's a moot point in the long term—meaning, perhaps, just the next five to ten years. Given the town, county, and state's goals of significantly reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in the next five, ten, and twenty-five years, the question of whether a single solar farm today is best sited here or there is immaterial. Eventually, every economically viable, approved site will have to be used for solar-electric generation. As someone else said at a Tompkins County Planning and Sustainability meeting earlier

conner 3-31-17

this week (March 29), "It's no longer a question of finding alternative sites, it's a question of finding additional sites."

I urge you to approve the plans for solar farms in the areas already proposed, namely, near George-Dryden roads and along Dodge-Stevenson-Turkey Hill roads.

Fred Conner
Irish Settlement Road
Town of Dryden

geisler 3-28-17

From: Charles C. Geisler [mailto:ccg2@cornell.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:04 AM
To: Bambi Avery
Subject: Vegetative fence mitigation

Dear Bambi,

I would appreciate it if you would circulate the following information to
Town Board members.

Dennis Osika, former Director of Cornell Grounds Care, sent us this list of evergreens that might block the view of fences enclosing the solar projects. He tried to select species that were adapted to Zones 4 or 5, fast-growing, and not so high that they would block sun from the arrays. Deer-proof as well; where not possible, they might go within the fence.

Chuck Geisler

<Some Low and Hardy Sceening Plant Recommendarions - 3-25-17[1][1].docx>

kruser 3-29-17

From: Jeramy Kruser <jeramy.kruser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:41 PM
To: Ray Burger; Supervisor; Bambi Avery
Subject: Re: Next Town Board Meeting postponed until April 6th at 7 PM

I want to follow up on this. Thank you Joseph Wilson for attending tonight's Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability meeting at the library, and for sharing with me the excerpt from NYS Public Commission Service, Cases 14-E-0422 & 14-E-0151, "ORDER RAISING NET METERING MINIMUM CAPS, REQUIRING TARIFF REVISIONS, MAKING OTHER FINDINGS, AND ESTABLISHING FURTHER PROCEDURES."

This does definitively answer the concerns I expressed regarding the proper use of community solar. Thank you for correcting my misunderstanding, I will be sure to share this information with others in the community that express the same misconception. I appreciate the efforts to make this process transparent. There is much we can still improve, but this alleviates one of my major concerns.

We still need to question and consider every proposal made to ensure we keep residents, and the town's, best interest in these projects. We do need to improve communications and find more and better ways to reduce impact of these projects on communities. However, I appreciate the efforts too keep these discussions based in facts, so that we can work logically toward a positive outcome.

I would like to look at what it would take get insurance companies to reconsider the requirement for fencing around solar. This seems to be another major sticking point people have. Is this something we have any control over at the local level?

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this more with Joseph and the rest of the Planning Board.

Jeramy Kruser
7 Dodge Rd
Ithaca NY 14850
607-257-6589

kuehn 3-31-17

From: Adelaide Kuehn [mailto:adelaidekuehn@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Bambi Avery
Subject: Dodge Road Solar Project

Dear Dryden Town Board Members,

My name is Adelaide Kuehn and I spent much of my childhood walking, running, and biking along Dodge Road. My family took walks down Dodge Road every evening with our dogs. We shared this road, and the surrounding fields, with a thriving ecosystem of plants and animals--- numerous small bird species, turkeys, geese, deer, coyotes, groundhogs, weasels, field mice, moles, turtles, salamanders, toads, and many, many more. Dodge Road is a place where children in our community experience the natural world, learn about plants and animals, and build healthy exercise habits.

As you can imagine, I am very concerned about plans to build a solar farm along Dodge Road. While I strongly support the use of sustainable energy sources, I fear that too much is at stake--a vibrant ecosystem and a place for neighborhood gathering-- to move forward with this project. The human and animal communities would be disrupted and destroyed beyond repair by the instillation of solar arrays.

I urge the Dryden Town Board to do everything in their power to stop this project. Please take a stand against the underhanded tactics of Cornell University and protect Dodge Road from irreparable damage.

Sincerely,
Adelaide Kuehn

--

Adelaide Kuehn
PhD Candidate
Department of French and Francophone Studies
University of California, Los Angeles
adelaidekuehn@ucla.edu

lovette 3-29-17

From: Irby Lovette [mailto:ijl2@cornell.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Bambi Avery
Cc: Irby Lovette
Subject: Re: Cornell solar projects

Dear Town of Dryden colleagues –

Please share my comments below with the members of both the Town Board and the Planning Board as they consider community feedback on this project.

I live in Dryden at 1396 Ellis Hollow Road, not too far from the solar project site. I drive past that site every day. I did not know about the project until last week, when I saw an email that then linked me to the project plans, which I have examined. As far as I am aware, I do not know anybody who has been involved in planning the project, so I have no known conflict of interest other than working for Cornell University.

At Cornell, I am a Professor of Ornithology, the science of the study of birds. I am well aware that the area around the project site is often used by recreational birders, many of whom go there to see the hawks attracted by the spilled grain at the pheasant farm, and/or to see gulls and crows attracted to the garbage at the Cornell compost piles. Like many people in the area I use the area recreationally myself, as well as for casual birding, and I find it scenic in ways that may change with this project.

Nonetheless, I am strongly in favor of the solar farm project owing to the reduction in carbon emissions it will cause; for me, this larger community benefit far outweighs for me the potential negatives of solar development in that already mixed-use area.

The area is indeed used frequently by birders, so this recreational use does merit your consideration. At a different level, as a scientist and ornithologist, I can not think of any reason why the project area is particularly special for birds in a conservation sense nor essential habitat for declining species of birds. If I am reading the plans correctly, the project will be built in open

lovette 3-29-17

fields and in early successional and already highly human modified sites, within a matrix that is already subject to high urbanization effects, already very fragmented, and in some cases planted intentionally with non-native plant species.

Regards,

Irby Lovette, PhD
Fuller Professor of Ornithology* **
Associate Director for Academic Affairs*
Director, Fuller Evolutionary Biology Program*
Curator of Genomics***
Cornell Lab of Ornithology*, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology**, and Cornell Museum of Vertebrates***
Cornell University
ijl2@cornell.edu
607-254-2140
website: <http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/lovette/>

mistry 3-30-17

From: Nari Mistry <nbm2@cornell.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Ray Burger
Cc: Supervisor; Martha Robertson
Subject: INDUSTRIAL UTILITY SIZE Dodge/Ellis Tract "Community Solar" project

To: Ray Burger, Director of Planning
Town of Dryden
Cc: Jason Leifer, Town Supervisor

Dear Sir,

We have written and spoken before the Dryden Town Board about our concerns regarding the

proposed Dryden Dodge/Ellis Tract "Community Solar" project.

We want to add to those concerns, the following very serious questions which you should

carefully consider, and for which we request URGENT clarification:

1. This massive solar project is clearly an INDUSTRIAL UTILITY SIZE PROJECT: approximately 18MW worth of solar panels in Ellis Hollow between Dodge Road and Turkey Hill Road and N. of Stevenson Rd., covering about 50 acres. This is definitely

NOT a "Community Solar" project! The NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) defines a "Community Solar" project as a maximum 2MW project for the benefit of local communities, which do not have major impacts on their communities, but which are allowed to sell power at higher prices and are NOT regulated by the PSC. Projects larger

than 2MW are classified as a Utility and regulated by the Public Service Commission.

The proposed solar installation gets around this definition by dividing up the area into

multiple parcels of land, even though each field is completely covered end-to-end by

solar panels. Does the Town of Dryden intend to collaborate on this flagrant violation of

NY State law? Does the installation include nine separate independent 2MW connections

to the grid? Has the Town Lawyer vetted this proposal? Do you understand fully the consequences?

2. If this proposed project amounts to an Industrial Scale installation (whether regulated by PSC or not), could it totally negate the famous Dryden "Home Rule" ban on Fracking,

which depends on the Town not choosing between various Industries? This is a VERY SERIOUS ISSUE, possibly impacting the whole Town and County far into the future. In

the present national political climate, this may involve us in the fight of our lives! I would

mistry 3-30-17

suggest proceeding very carefully and involving State Assemblywoman Barabara Lifton

and other NY State officials in looking over the possible consequences for Home Rule.

We request that you acknowledge receipt of this email to us and respond to these questions in

public at the upcoming April meeting.

We would like to repeat, as many of us have, that a true "Community Solar" 2MW project would

be welcomed and many of us would take advantage of it!

Sincerely,

Nari & Gin Mistry
1159 Ellis Hollow Rd.

mistry 4-1-17

From: Gin Mistry [mailto:ginmistry@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Bambi Avery
Cc: Planning; sustainability@cornell.edu; Nariman Mistry; graham@twcny.rr.com
Subject: Solar farm on Dodge Rd.

To Dryden Town Board.

I recently attended the meeting held by the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability. Many of the recommendations being considered for the development of alternate energy in Tompkins County are relevant to the present discussion of a solar farm on Dodge Road in the town of Dryden.

For large scale solar farms the following recommendations seem pertinent:

1. Prohibit large scale solar farms in floodplains and wetlands. (Some of the land on Dodge Rd is wetlands.)
2. Require screening by the developer. (there is none planned on Dodge.)
3. Require a soil reclamation plan when the solar farm is removed. (I have not heard of this.)
4. Avoid unique natural areas. (Dodge Rd probably qualifies.)
5. Avoid clearing forests. (A beautiful spruce woods is slated for destruction.)
6. Avoid blocking noteworthy views. (The view towards Turkey Hill is gorgeous!)
7. Consider impact on streams; a 100 foot buffer is recommended. (The solar panels come very close to Cascadilla Creek.)
8. Assess habitat loss and fragmentation. (This is very important on Dodge.)

Thank you for your consideration.

Gin Mistry
1159 Ellis Hollow Rd

Some Plants Suitable for Screening

Dennis Osika, 3-25-17

Within the nearly 4,000 ornamental tree and shrub species and cultivars commonly grown in the United States, extremely few plants meet the desired local screening requirements of: having evergreen foliage, a maximum height of ± 15 foot, area winter hardiness Zone 5 (down to -10 to -20 degrees F) or lower, low maintenance, and “deer resistant”. (Note that most plants categorized as “deer resistant” are not deer proof, especially during severe winters with heavy and continuing snow cover. Also, the mature plant heights provided below are significantly affected by soil conditions).

Screen plantings within an eight foot high, protective, galvanized, chain link fence can markedly mitigate potential: plant theft, deer damage, vandalism plant by youths, site litter accumulation, and risk management costs.

I recommend the use of one or more of the following seven commercially available, evergreen shrubs for screen plantings in this area:

Wichita Blue Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum* ‘Witchita Blue’) -brilliant bluish evergreen needles, pyramidal to 15 feet tall, deer resistant, very hardy (Zones 3 to 6), rapid grower.

Columnar Hetz Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* ‘Hetzii Columnaris’) – blue-green evergreen needles, pyramidal to 15 feet tall, deer resistant, very hardy and climate adaptable (Zones 3 to 9), rapid grower.

Robusta Green Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* ‘Robusta Green’) – grey-green evergreen needles, upright to 15 foot, deer resistant, very hardy and climate adaptable (Zones 3 to 9), rapid grower.

Dwarf Alberta White Spruce (*Picea glauca conica*) – light green evergreen needles, broad conical upright form to 12 feet tall, very deer resistant, very hardy (Zones 2 to 6), but very slow grower.

Inkberry Holly (*Ilex glabra*) – lustrous dark green “evergreen” leaves which turn bronzy colored in winter, broad upright form to 10 feet tall, very site condition tolerant, very hardy and climate adaptable (Zones 4 to 9).

Hatfield Yew (*Taxus x media* ‘Hatfieldii’) – dark green evergreen needles, broadly columnar form to 12 feet tall, requires fencing for deer winter feeding protection, very hardy (Zones 4 to 7).

China Girl Holly (*Ilex x meserveae* ‘mesog China Girl’) – lustrous dark green evergreen leaves, (will produce abundant red berries if planted along with some China Boy Holly for pollination), broad upright form to 10 feet tall, requires fencing for deer winter feeding protection, (Zone 5 to 7)

schickel j 4-3-17

From: Jacques Schickel [mailto:jacquesschickel@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 4:07 AM

To: Bambi Avery

Subject: To town and all boards and committees. Beware of unintended consequences!
Energy Poverty !

Please forward this to all Town Boards and Committees. Thanks, Jacques

Beware of unintended consequences! Energy Poverty !

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/high-costs-and-errors-of-german-transition-to-renewable-energy-a-920288.html>

High Costs and Errors of German Transition to Renewable ...www.spiegel.de

Germany's aggressive and reckless expansion of wind and solar power has come with a hefty pricetag for consumers, and the costs often fall disproportionately on the poor.

tessaglia-hymes 3-30-17

From: Christopher T. Tessaglia-Hymes [mailto:cth4@cornell.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Bambi Avery
Cc: Diane L Tessaglia-Hymes
Subject: PLEASE READ: Solar Farm Opinion

Good afternoon,

I have been asked to communicate our opinions concerning the proposed Dodge Road solar farm, and solar farms in general, directly to you for inclusion in the official record on this matter.

My wife, Diane, and I are strong proponents of solar power (versus coal, natural gas, and even wind power), although we personally have not had the financial means to invest in this for our own properties. That being said, we don't approve of industrial-scale solar farms especially when it impacts habitat for wildlife (regardless of whether this habitat is potentially used by listed species of concern, or not). We have plenty of human "habitat" which has irreversibly destroyed natural habitat decades ago, which would be entirely suitable for large-scale solar farms: parking lots, malls, sprawling warehouses, huge apartment complexes, etc. Parking lots...just think how pleased the general public would be if they were able to park in a shaded and rain- or snow-free spot every time they went to the mall or to work.

If a targeted solar farm installation location will result in destruction of existing bird and other wildlife habitat, it does not make sense and the sited location needs to be reconsidered. Further, new and ideally-sited solar farms should be in plain sight to regular users of electric power, so that it becomes more and more acceptable to have solar panel locations sited in visibly public places; this can help lead toward public acceptance of solar panels and more people being in consideration of having them installed on their own home rooftops, business rooftops, over their driveways, or on stands in their yards (in already destroyed or fragmented natural habitats).

The location being proposed along Dodge Road is probably going to be invisible to greater than

tessaglia-hymes 3-30-17

98% of the Cornell Community: out of sight out of mind? More visibility = more demand =
increasing productivity = decreasing costs.

The location being proposed along Dodge Road, especially in reference to the Dodge Road

Spruce Plantation, has in the past hosted as many as six roosting Long-eared Owls and one

roosting Northern Saw-whet Owl, nesting Great Horned Owls, foraging Red Crossbill flocks,

spring migrating Cape May (17!) and Tennessee (8!) Warblers, along with dozens of other

additional bird species which can be listed in greater detail, if necessary. Many species of birds

use spruce stands as critical winter roosting and foraging habitat, and spring and fall migration

foraging habitat, providing the necessary energy reserves to allow birds to continue on their long

migratory journeys.

Our preference: move the solar panels away from the spruce plantation edge, instead of

removing beneficial trees. Why cut down trees to avoid shading solar panels which will be the

least productive anyway, during the late afternoon setting sun? That's the argument for cutting

down the trees, isn't it - to avoid shading those western-most solar panels? Has anyone

conducted a measurable evaluation of the shade footprint produced by the spruces (or other

forest edge trees at this location) and what measurable impact will that have during peak versus

non-peak solar productivity on the sited solar panels?

Our concern is that once a precedent has been set for removal of habitat for solar panels, where

does the line get drawn? Pertaining to siting, shouldn't Cornell University first exhaust the

placement of solar panels atop existing campus-wide building structures and parking lots, before

blanketing off-campus rural areas with massive solar farms? Seriously - consider putting these

solar farms over already permanently destroyed habitats: parking lots, parking lots, parking lots!

Please share these comments in an official capacity with other town board members.

Thank you very much!

tessaglia-hymes 3-30-17

Sincerely,

Chris and Diane Tessaglia-Hymes

--

Chris Tessaglia-Hymes

PO Box 488

8 Etna Lane

Etna, NY 13062

607-351-5740