

ackroyd 4-13-17

From: Bill Ackroyd [mailto:Backroyd@citlink.net]  
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:54 PM  
To: Supervisor  
Cc: Bambi Avery  
Subject: Current issues

Hi Jason,

I assume you are overwhelmed with correspondence regarding the solar power generating controversy. I hope you will have the time to read this note or at least assure me that it will be officially recorded.

I recently authored a comment/note on social media expressing my opinion on these matters that I will include below. It was primarily an opinion and observation of recent events. I also made comment to my original post expressing what I believe to be a reasonable solution.

I am a troubleshooter and problem solver by both trade, training and temperament and I hope you will recognize that my solution is pragmatic and common sense. I truly believe that you can probably resolve 99% of the issues by considering this solution in some fashion. Yes, you will have extreme opposition from both sides, but it can be a reasonable compromise. Below is my original social media post followed by my solution comment to it.  
Bill Ackroyd  
Dryden, NY

For the past few weeks I've been watching and listening with interest to the discussion surrounding large industrial solar power generation installations proposed for the Town of Dryden. Tonight I attended a public forum regarding same at the Dryden Fire Hall. After evaluating everything I've seen, heard and read, I'm amazed and at the same time disappointed, that the very elected officials that ran on campaign platforms of "protecting Dryden" and touted a genuine concern for the environment and rural beauty of Dryden, would consider approval of these huge eyesores in the locations proposed. I was even further dismayed to listen to elected officials aggressively promoting these installations. It would appear there is some personal agenda being advanced. With responsibility to represent all the residents and looking out for the entire Town, our elected officials should be asking themselves the following questions:

ackroyd 4-13-17

1. If one of these huge solar "farms" was to be placed adjacent to your house, and it would have an adverse effect on the visual beauty of your property as well as a negative impact on the value of your home, would you be in favor of it? (I kinda doubt it)

2. Is there a direct benefit to the residents and/or the Town of Dryden overall by allowing these installations such as:

\* Increased recurring local employment?

\* Additional property taxes collected vs credits, discounts or PILOTS?

\* Reduced electric rates for residents?

Thus far I have heard of no significant, tangible, direct benefit to the people of the town

of Dryden. None!

Dryden has a beautiful rural and agricultural landscape. Over the years people have been so concerned to protect this beauty that they have fought aggressively against

drilling and fracking, highway billboards, and have enacted sign ordinances, landscaping regulations, storm water runoff laws, and even specify parking lot lighting

requirements to prevent "light pollution", yet they are considering approval of the

enormous visual pollution these acres and acres of glass will have.

All this being said, I am not anti-solar despite the technical inefficiencies, and when not

subsidized, poor ROI. There are just better places to build these ugly scars on the

landscape where people don't have to see them daily and they don't have an adverse effect on property values.

If these installations are indeed approved, it will be a huge violation of public trust by our

elected officials.

Thinking "out loud" and maybe a pragmatic common sense solution to all this controversy.

What if the Town of Dryden were to.....

\* Allow large arrays where they are not directly visible from main highways, parks,

cemeteries, residential housing developments etc.

\* Require a minimum 1000' from any individual home or business. (anything less is no

more than an average driveway length)

\* Require landscaping and plantings to further obscure installation.

\* No tax breaks for solar company or property owners. Stand on their own financial

merits! (just good business practice)

ackroyd 4-13-17

Win - homeowners views or property value not likely adversely effected by installation.

Win - Parks, cemeteries and other common, highly visible public open space not adversely effected.

Win - taxpayers are not burdened with subsidizing solar generation business.

Win - fence companies gain business

Win - landscape and tree/shrub nurseries gain business.

Win - property owner gets lease/rent payments from solar elec co. and pays income taxes and hopefully spend their earnings locally.

Win - town sees more tax revenue from increased assessment based on value of solar "improvements" on property

Win - Dryden officials can tout that they are doing their part in promoting and producing green energy to the world.

Win - Solar company gains business selling electricity to power companies.

baurle 4-8-17

From: Christopher Baurle [mailto:chrisbaurle@live.com]  
Sent: Saturday, April 08, 2017 4:54 PM  
To: Bambi Avery  
Subject: Solar in Dryden

I support the development of solar installations in Dryden. New technology can bring objections, but when the public health and pollution from burning fossil fuels is taken into account, accepting solar installations provides the best future.

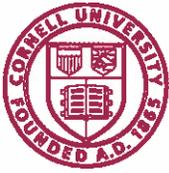
Questions of where to place a solar array are not only legitimate, but necessary. We are used to seeing solar panels on roofs and in yards, but when they were new, we questioned the use and the placement.

Placement of large solar arrays is severely limited by the available grid wiring and appropriateness of adjoining land. There are too few connection points in Dryden, our county, and in the state. Selecting sites takes a bit of compromising on everyone's part. Landscape buffers will be a good addition- and are necessary.

The benefits from the proposed solar arrays in Dryden - a local source of non-polluting electric generation and low cost electricity for local residents outweigh the aesthetic objections.

Please forward this to the Dryden Town Board and Planning Board members.

289 Virgil Rd  
Dryden, NY  
13053



**Cornell University**  
**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

**Kathryn J. Boor, Ph.D.**  
*The Ronald P. Lynch Dean*

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April 12, 2017

To Dryden Resource Awareness Council, Town of Dryden Board and Planning Board -  
Neighbors:

I am writing to acknowledge the interest and inputs expressed by many members of the Dryden community regarding the community solar project on 110 acres (+/-) of Cornell-owned land, currently managed by the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine, for agricultural research.

As you know, this important project proposal - to be developed by Distributed Sun and placed on the tax rolls - includes the Ellis Tract north of Stevenson Road, and sites on Dodge Road and Turkey Hill Road, south of Stevenson Road.

In recent weeks, we have heard concerns about this siting, as well as claims of a waste of "good farmland."

To clarify, the Cornell lands proposed for solar development are not included in either of Tompkins County's two [Agricultural Districts](#), nor are these lands within any of the County's six identified [Agricultural Resource Focus Areas](#). It should also be noted that, as dictated by circumstance, solar farms are readily reverted to traditional agriculture and can support concurrent grazing activity.

During the site-selection process, more than 50 Cornell sites were analyzed, many managed by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. A number were eliminated due to distance to an interconnection point (access to grid), and several other possible options were eliminated from consideration as well because they support active, funded research, are being maintained in a state of readiness for future research, or operate as research support.

The parcels selected for the community solar project were identified as either having low-productivity soils, less agricultural value, and-or the ability to relocate existing and planned research operations from the selected sites to other suitable Cornell lands.

There are few institutions in the world that care more about farmland preservation than Cornell University. Of equal concern and attention for Cornell in 2017 is climate change, and

doing all we can to enable sustainability efforts around the world, on our campus, and in the local community to prosper while also reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

We are thankful to many of you who have voiced support for the solar project. These are important decisions and the engagement of Dryden residents to date has been encouraging, informative, and helpful.

As Steve Kress, vice president for Bird Conservation at the National Audubon Society wrote recently:

"The warming of our Earth is the single greatest environmental threat of our time. The solar farm proposed for Dodge Road is an opportunity to take local action for a global problem. It will make a statement that our community is committed to moving away from burning fossil fuels and toward sustainable energy."

Again, thank you for your inputs and for staying engaged with the project team on any questions, concerns, or support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathryn J. Boor".

Kathryn J. Boor, Ph.D.  
*The Ronald P. Lynch Dean*

johnson 4-6-17

From: Lynn Johnson [mailto:lcjdenver@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 7:15 PM  
To: Bambi Avery  
Subject: Dryden Solar Array project

Dear Town Clerk -

Please forward this message to the Town Board, Planning Board, and Conservation Board Members

I am a resident of the Town of Dryden who firmly believes it is important that locally and as a nation we move away from our dependence on fossil fuels. I am very much in favor of proceeding with the proposed Dryden Solar Array. It will provide needed revenue from taxes for our town and county and help decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. Moving to renewable resources is the right thing to do.

Solar energy is a quiet, clean alternative to fossil fuels. Our energy needs will continue to increase. This project is an important step in meeting these needs.

Sincerely,

Lynn Johnson  
22 Genung Circle  
Town of Dryden

kuehn 4-7-17

From: Kaspar John Graham Kuehn [mailto:kjk232@cornell.edu]  
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 7:29 AM  
To: Bambi Avery  
Subject: Opposition to Cornell Solar Project

Can you please forward the message below to the Town Board and the Planning Board.  
Thank  
you.

Dear Dryden Board Members,

My name is Kaspar Kuehn and I am writing to you because of my fierce opposition to Cornell's solar project along Dodge Road and Stevenson Road. The construction and visual obstruction of these solar panels will ruin the tranquility of an area many people use as place to connect with nature and exercise.

Although I fully support solar energy, I am infuriated at Cornell's approach to this project. The disregard for input during initial planning shows Cornell's lack of concern for the communities that surround their land. Granting Cornell their requested zoning variances to have the project classified as Community Distributed Generation(CBD) goes against what CBD is designed for, helping build small community supported solar projects. This project is not small and it doesn't have the support of Dryden. Cornell owns plenty of other isolated fields that could support large solar projects. Although Cornell has a lot of influence in the area, I trust that you will support the Dryden community and postpone approval until Cornell has taken alternative building sites into greater consideration. Postponing this project is not an opposition to solar and renewable energy, it is a chance to have the voices of Dryden citizens fully heard.

Thank you,  
Kaspar Kuehn

Kaspar J. Kuehn  
Technician - Cornell Horticulture Department  
158 Plant Science Building  
Ithaca, NY 14850

**RECEIVED**

**APR 11 2017**

**DRYDEN TOWN CLERK**

April 11, 2017

To: Town of Dryden

Re: Proposed Solar Farm on Turkey Hill Rd and Dodge Rd

From: Susan Reed-Fanfoni

Greetings:

I own and live at the property located on the corner of Turkey Hill Rd and Stevenson Rd. This property has been in our family for 200 years, I am amazed that I have the privilege of saying that :) I have studied the proposed maps for 50 acres of solar collectors. Quite industrial!

I am trying not to be a "nimby" but I do have deep concerns about the parcel labeled N5 that runs parallel with Turkey Hill. I understand there will a tall fence surrounding the entire setup. My concern is deer. We get a substantial amount of deer that cross Turkey Hill from the upper field to the lower field. Usually a driver can see them in time to slow down. However when the deer heads west towards the fence, it will most likely run along it then turn around and head back up across the road. Doubling the chances of a car hitting it. Turkey Hill Road gets an enormous amount of traffic as its a way to come from Dryden heading towards East Hill/Cornell area. You would be surprised at the amount of tractor trailers that uses that road. I have witnessed a large increase of traffic over the past few years.

There was mention of sheep put in to graze the grounds. Sounds lovely, really... but I wonder if Distribution Sun has any knowledge of how many packs of coyotes that live in the woods in the back area behind the houses on Turkey Hill Rd? They get pretty bold at times and venture up to my area and the duplexes located behind me. To protect the sheep, the fencing would need to be buried deeply in the ground. It would be disheartening to see dead sheep laying out there.

Lastly, I realize Cornell is trying to reach a level of sustainable energy. I truly applaud that, but I don't think they realize that putting the solar panels all the way up to Turkey Hill Road is conducive to maintaining the beautiful ambience of <sup>the</sup> that area. People love driving through there and seeing the open space and sunsets. Many (and I mean a large number) of residents jog, bike and walk in this area. I would like to think that Cornell has an obligation to maintaining a healthy community, especially one that is so close.

I am sure Town of Dryden is looking at this very carefully to make sure this project is a good fit and meets the needs with the least amount of damage to the surrounding neighbors. We do have concerns about the market value of our homes. A lowered assessment is not always a good thing especially when one has invested alot into their property. A tax credit would be a better incentive for those of us who border the properties of the solar farm to be better neighbors.

Thank you for reading and for all of your hard work!

*Susan Reed-Fanfoni*