

Dear Ray and Supervisor Leifer

After a lot of thought and consideration I have decided I should voice my concerns about the direction of the 2150 Solar Project SUP. I attended the site visit last Thursday, October 16. I listened, asked questions and after much reflection must say very little changed. All that did change was moving of a couple of poles a few feet. This will improve access to the site, to some degree but, that's all it will do. There were several other concerns brought forward by the Planning Board and strongly supported by both the Conservation Board and the Ag Advisory Committee yet none of these have been addressed. To say these small changes have brought everyone into agreement on a plan is a false narrative and a misconception of what transpired. Yes, I agree access will be improved but what about the other concerns. This plan does nothing to improve the visual impacts of the placement of the poles. I was under the impression at the Board meeting on the 15th that moving the poles as far to the north as possible was the plan that was going to be pursued. Yet a little smooth talking by a group of Tru-green representatives seemed to convince several attendees that they had made big concessions by moving a couple of poles just a few feet. I was not convinced then and the more I think about it the more convinced I am that it was a bait and switch by big business yet again and the major reason was again the bottom line as always. Cheaper to move those couple of poles rather than move that entire grouping to a more acceptable location. I voiced this concern at the site visit but my concerns seem to fall on deaf ears.

Let's consider some of the other concerns. Most importantly is the destruction of the riparian buffer along Virgil Creek. Again Tru-green is making promises of how careful they will be when taking down trees in this sensitive area but they have yet to submit a comprehensive plan to be reviewed. After looking at before and after pictures of the destruction of Willow Glen Creek why should anyone believe there will be a better end result on Virgil Creek. The PB asked that the crossing be limited to one line across the creek to minimize the destruction but again Tru-green says it is not possible. Again should we just take this at face value? And then there is the fact that no one has been allowed access to the south side of Virgil Creek. I have requested this several times, but I am simply ignored. I brought this up again at last week's site visit and there was no response. I will ask again what I have before, "What are they hiding? Why are they so reluctant to allow access?" Is it because they don't want anyone to actually see what may be destroyed ahead of time? Is it a case of the old adage, It's better to ask forgiveness after the fact than ask permission? I don't know and either does anyone else without an opportunity to see what is on the south side and review an acceptable plan. There is only way to dispel these concerns and that will only happen if you Ray, and the Town Board insist, instead of ignoring every request.

Again, I ask that the Town Board not to approve this plan until all pertinent concerns are addressed satisfactorily and access to the south side of Virgil Creek is permitted. My hope is these concerns will not fall on deaf ears again and will be taken seriously and the concerns of the advisory boards will also be taken seriously. Please don't push this SUP through for the sake of getting it off your plate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Craig Schutt