



**TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON PLANNING BOARD** [planningboard@westboylston-ma.gov](mailto:planningboard@westboylston-ma.gov)  
140 Worcester Street \* West Boylston MA 01583 \* Phone 774-261-4073

**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES**  
**Site Plan Review for Solar Panel Array**  
**(West Boylston Municipal Lighting Plant)**  
**April 13, 2016**

Chairman: Marc Frieden

Members Present: Vincent Vignaly, Christopher Olson, Barur Rajeshkumar

Members Absent: Cheryl Carlson

Others Present: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

**All documents referenced in these Minutes are stored and available for public inspection in the Planning Board Office located at 140 Worcester Street.**

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Olson read into record the Notice of Public Hearing which was published in the Telegram & Gazette on March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. Tear sheets and green card abutter notifications were not presented and will need to be submitted.

Jonathan Fitch (WBMLP) said they propose to build a solar panel array to generate 2 megawatts on top of the capped landfill which will generate approximately 5% of the town's energy needs. It is a 15 acre parcel; they will fence in 6 acres and use 5 of those acres. An entrance is proposed during construction where the bus turnaround is; the pavement goes off the road. There will be a gate off Pierce Street. There are cameras and alarms at the substation and additional units will be positioned on this property. They have applied to DEP for a post-closure permit which is required in order to use the area on top of the town's capped landfill.

Stephen Wiehe (Weston & Sampson) said they have an application before the ZBA for a special permit, they received a favorable review from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the Conservation Commission issued a Negative Determination of Applicability, and the Mass Historic Commission found no significant effects. The 22 acre parcel was deeded to the town in 1942; the landfill closure was started in 1993. He provided photos of what the site would look like. Mr. Frieden expressed his desire that it look like the solar array on Tivnan Drive with straight panels. Mr. Fitch said there will be less of an angle than on Paul Tivnan Drive.

Mr. Flis (Whitman & Bingham) described the spacing for the panels and that the fencing and solar collection panels will be ballasted so that they will not penetrate the landfill cap. Tree clearing will be done in the southwest corner, along the southerly boundary as well as along Route 140. He said there is a very small increase in runoff; the 10-year storm event is 0.01 cfs (cubic feet per second), the 25-year storm event is 0.03 cfs, and the 100-year storm event is 0.14 cfs. Grass will prevent erosion and act as a natural break for the larger of the two catch basins that drain to the south. There is a swale and rip rap drain that is in place, and the increase in

impervious area associated with the concrete ballast is relatively small. Everything is being placed on top of the landfill. Mr. Vignaly said increase flow is a small amount but it is a significant percentage increase (approximately 50%). Mr. Flis was also asked that a stamp and signature be added to the calculations.

Mr. Vignaly asked what they are doing with regard to runoff during the construction and site erosion control. Mr. Flis said they will wait for DEP's recommendations whether to use straw wattles or haybales and silt fencing. Mr. Vignaly suggested they could use a 10" or 12" compost tube and leave it in place to address the increased flow shown in their calculations. Traffic calculations were not provided since the only traffic will be during construction and thereafter vehicles will only be there sporadically. Mr. Fitch said the Municipal Lighting Plant will be maintaining the cap, mowing, sampling, and coordinating annual inspections by DEP. The school bus turnaround will remain and will be paved.

Mr. Flis said they are compliant with the intent of the DEP standards and have the NPDES Permit in place. Mr. Vignaly said according to our Stormwater Bylaws they have to meet DEP standards. They need to show how they are meeting it, not that parts do not apply. They will need to ask for a waiver to the SPR if they are not in compliance; and will need to submit a completed and stamped DEP Stormwater Checklist form before the next meeting.

Mr. Frieden read into record the approval comments from the Police and Fire Departments. With regard to landscaping, the board would like to see small shrubs, etc., along Route 140 to make the area presentable.

Mr. Vignaly made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to April 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.; Mr. Rajeshkumar seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Date Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher E. Olson, Clerk

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Rich