



**Town of Hartland  
Planning Board Meeting Minutes**

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**Thursday 2/17/2022**

The meeting opened at 6:45 pm.

In attendance: Robert Spencer, Margaret Darroch, Beverly Snell, Secretary Jennifer Mason.  
Public attendance: Peggy Zaepfel, Floyd Zaepfel, and Steve Urtel.

Topic of discussion: Solar Panels

R. Spencer commented that Newfane has a 500' set back to the fence. Then the panels will be even further back. He also mentioned that there are certain things we have to address; Batteries and Bonding

P. Zaepfel pointed out that over 50% farmland and drained farmland cannot be used for solar. The state does not want solar on Wetlands. NYS Recommendation to not put solar panels on farm land.

M. Darroch states she is concerned for the wooded lots and earth warming and for the Watershed, it is so complex.

R. Spencer gave some examples of batteries exploding, creating a 2 mile brown field Somerset has a 500' setback to fence, then 200' from that before the panels can be installed.

P. Zaepfel stated that the purpose of zoning laws are to keep the character of our town. Survey for the residents wishes. This survey will be altered to the way the person writing the survey believes.

R. Spencer suggests a minimum setback of 500', and planting trees around the fence to provide a visual buffer zone, forest buffer zone. If a tree dies then we could require that they would have 1 growing season to replace it once noted that the tree died. We may want to specify what type of trees are to be planted around the fence.

S. Urtel stated that the deer may eat the tree. He has had that happen where the deer eat the trees as high up as they can reach.

M. Darroch: Will be working on the Panel law

B. Snell: Will be working on the Battery Storage law

We may want to request a Moratorium, to give us ample time.



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Concerns were brought up about the heat from the sun not being able to reach the earth below the panels. May request a public hearing for the month of April.

A question of if legislature bill received Newfane and Somerset's laws arose? Peggy gave a copy to everyone.

Resolution to include input on survey

Two local laws: Solar Energy Systems & Enacting Battery Storage Systems.

Motion made by B. Snell that a work session be held on Thursday Mar 3, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Seconded by M. Darroch

3 Ayes, 0 Nays. Passed

Next scheduled regular meeting will be March 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Motion made by M. Darroch to adjourn the meeting, seconded by B. Snell.

3 Ayes, 0 Nays. Passed

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Mason*

Jennifer Mason  
Secretary