

Greenvale Township Planning Commission
PUBLIC HEARING – ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2022

Present: Ken Malecha (Chair); Commissioners Joyce Moore, Scott Norkunas, Mark Legvold, Victor Volkert; Supervisor Charles Anderson, Board Liaison and Jane Dilley, Town Clerk

Others Present: Cindy & Dave Roehl, Maynard Bolton, Tate Stanton, Jack Stanton, Mary Collins, Perry Collins, Gregory Langer, Karen Blandin, Jerry Gehler, Richard Fott, Andy Anderson, Lisa Legvold, Jess Bodnar, Joe Kalina, Patti Christianson, Eric Christianson, Terry Mulligan, Tony Rowan, Erv Ulrich, Carolyn Fott, Mary Langer, Linus Langer, Simon Tyler, Cindy Larson, Linda Wasner, Jennifer Welbaum, Mary Huerter, Craig Host, and one illegible name.

Agenda: Chairman Malecha called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Malecha asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There being none, Malecha moved to approve the agenda. Legvold seconded. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Opening of the Meeting: Malecha stated the Planning Commission ("PC") is an appointed body that makes recommendations on planning and zoning issues to the Town Board. The PC's recommendations are advisory only. The elected Town Board members make the final decisions on matters brought before the PC. The audience was reminded to sign in and silence their electronic devices.

The sole purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear public testimony on the proposed zoning ordinance amendment relating to alternative energy sources: solar, solid wood fuel and LP.

Persons wishing to make comment should come to the front of the room and state their name and address. There will be a five (5) minute limit on testimony. After all testimony is given a person may speak again at the discretion of the Chairman.

Audience member Jerry Gehler asked for some background on the ordinance. Supervisor Anderson asked to answer the question. Township attorney Mike Couri was present at a previous Board of Supervisors meeting and told the Board the permits that

had already been granted for solar installations were illegal, as the township has no solar ordinance. The ordinance is being amended to provide protection for both the Board and those who installed solar, and well as establish guidelines for future solar installations. Chairman Malecha added that one of the Supervisors suggested adding solid wood fuel (wood burners) and LP tanks to the scope of the energy ordinance. The PC was assisted to two University of Minnesota students who had done extensive research. A draft ordinance was drafted and sent to the Township planner, Steve Grittmann, who put it into ordinance form. This is the ordinance that is in front of us tonight.

Greg Langer asked to address the group. He previously served as a Supervisor and supports the ordinance moving forward. He noted thanks to the previous PC members who worked on the ordinance, as well as the U of M students and Richard and Carolyn Fott's son who gave a presentation to the PC.

Tony Rowan asked about the provision for solar installations being exempted from inspection if installed prior to September 1, 2022. He questioned if they were also exempted from abandonment provisions.

Carolyn Fott questioned the provision of a two year lookback with aerial photos which is designed to eliminate wooded areas from being clear cut to make way for solar installations.

Jessica Bodnar asked if there were set back requirements for LP tanks.

Erv Ulrich asked if there was an appeals process for roof top solar installations which have setback requirements along roof edges. Photovoltaic systems are quickly changing with technology. Likely in the future we will see photovoltaic roof coatings.

Simon Tyler thanked the PC for working on a sustainable energy policy. We need an energy delivery system to get energy where we are going to need it. He arrived in an electric car and believes most of us will be driving an electric vehicle within 3 – 5 years. He appreciates the forward thinking of our community that also focuses on conservation.

Cindy Larson asked about external wood burners – can they be replaced?

Jerry Gehler asked if the liquid fuel provision also covers usage by farmers of diesel and gasoline above ground tanks.


Malecha asked if there were any other comments from the public. There were none.

Malecha asked for a motion to adjourn. Moore made the motion, seconded by Norkunas. Motion carried 5 – 0.


The public hearing was adjourned at 6:40pm

APPROVED – November 10, 2022

Prepared by:



Ken Malecha, Chair



Jane Dilley, Town Clerk