

**Hopkinton Conservation Commission
Special Remote Meeting
Thursday, April 29th, 2021**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:16 Members present: Harvey Buford, Chair, Gary Marsh, Vice Chair, Deborah O’Leary, Lydia Lanphear. Quorum.

Jeff Frenette, Hopkinton IT Director and Bob Marvel, town council liaison were also present.

The Hopkinton Conservation Commission held an informational meeting on Thursday, April 29, 2021 to address questions and concerns about the Commoli Solar Project Plat 2, Lot 73, before the Planning Board Hearing on May 5. Jason Gold from EES and Colleen DeBenedetto from Centrica were in attendance representing the project.

1. Method to be used to determine the need for remediation of the Brownfield. There are fragments of plastic, metal and glass. The applicant did not outline any plan for initiating testing or remediation. DEM has primary responsibility for reviewing any testing and cleanup.
2. Storm water runoff and detention basin. The detention basin and site should have 6” layer of topsoil And planted grass. The Conservation Commission feels that a good layer of topsoil and planted grasses would help absorb storm water. How and whom would ensure that there is a proper 6” of topsoil?
3. Tree cutting: Trees shading the array will be cut as well as trees where the array will be sited.
4. Land regrading: There are two areas of rock to be regraded to accommodate panels.
5. Easements and the Land Trust. Joelle Rocha is working together with the Land Trust.
6. Roads and trails: The road through unit 1 to unit two will be from 15’ to 12’ in width. The Trail to Unit 3 is an 8 ft wide grassy path. We asked if this reduction in access to Unit 3 is acceptable to that owner. They said yes.
7. We asked about the efficiency of the panels and whether or not they were considering more efficient tracking panels. We were told tracking panels require maintenance which is not part of how they run their business
8. Fencing requirements: During the site walk a more attractive type of fence was suggested by HCC that meets Solar Ordinance and National Electrical Code. Mr. Gold

referenced the RI Fire Code 11.12.3.3. Security Barrier that "Fencing, skirting, or other suitable security barriers shall be installed when required by the AHJ. They said they have a memo from the Fire Chief interpreting this to mean the fence must be "non-climbable" and rejecting the 7 foot farm fence. They were reluctant to share the memo.

9. Decommissioning and Reforestation: All solar equipment including poles out to the street will be removed. We hope a forester would be involved in the decommissioning process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.