

Hopkinton Planning Board

Solicitor's Report

June 7, 2021

1. Site Walks:

After the Board's last meeting , upon further review, I determined that the proposal to conduct site walks without simultaneous streaming, would violate Open Meetings Laws. I could discern no possible way to conduct the site walks with the full Planning Board in attendance and be in compliance. Therefore, the only way for the Board members to have a site visit with the applicant's representatives would be to attend in twos.

Chase Hill Road

On Thursday, June 3, Emily Shumshenia and I had a site visit to the proposed solar project on Chase Hill Road. It lasted approximately 1 hour. No other planning board members attended. Mr. DiOrio is recused on that project and other members either took a site walk with the Conservation Commission or could not attend the walk. Also in attendance for the applicant: Jason Gold, George Comolli, Colleen DeBenedetto and Joelle Rocha. Mr. Gold had a site plan and at our request, would periodically point out where we were on the property and where the limits of disturbance and tree removal would be.

Stone Ridge

The Stone Ridge site walk was arranged to provide for two groups of two members, leaving at staggered times on Wednesday June 9.

2. Open Meetings-Compliance

A member of the public has emailed me, concerned that Planning Board members are not taking his calls concerning various projects. He was advised that I have previously advised Board members not to engage in discussions with members of the public on pending matters, outside the scope of a public meeting. Board members are to advise members of the public who might try to discuss pending matters, to direct emails through the Planning office, or to participate at Open Meetings.

3. Revity Appeal

The Revity appeal was re-scheduled due to unavailability of a Zoning Board member. It is now scheduled for June 24.