



HOPKINTON RHODE ISLAND

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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TO: John Schroeder, Energy Development Partners

FROM: Talia Jalette, Town Planner

DATE: September 21, 2022

RE: Master Plan – Public Informational Meeting – Major Land Development Project – **Skunk Hill Road Solar** – Plat 18, Lots 8, 13, and 14, 0 Arcadia Road, 0 Lisa Lane, and 145 Skunk Hill Road Solar, LLC., applicant.

Planning Department Requests:

At the August 3, 2022 Planning Board meeting, the applicant was amendable to revising their submission to incorporate information requested by this Department. I am now inquiring into the status of these changes.

General Plan Set:

- 1) When will a plan set that identifies Goat Rocks, and establishes the limit of disturbance around these protected features, be produced?
 - a. Mr. Craven agreed that the applicant would “come back with a map of where it is, and a proposed set of restrictions that are agreed to by the Land Trust, the Town, and the landowner.”

Stormwater Management Plan:

- 1) There were elements of the Stormwater Management Plan that needed to be revised. They are as follows:
 - b. Section 2.3.3, Groundwater Recharge Area – the reference to “minimal fertilizers” should be stricken.
 - c. The plans in Appendix A were illegible - they will need to be revised.

- d. Engineering Technical Justifications - Can you clarify whether 3 or 6 inches of “clean, washed, crushed stone” will be used on the access road? Have you heard from DEM in relation to their review of the access road?
 - i. There was a conflict between the plan set that was submitted, which read 3 inches, and the Stormwater Management Plan, which read 6 inches. This is the direct quote from the plan: “Based on our experience permitting similar projects with RIDEM, it is our understanding that if a minimum of 6 inches of clean, washed, crushed stone is utilized for low-use access roadways, then the roadway is not considered impervious area.”

When can we expect a revised copy of the Stormwater Management Plan?

Updated Species List:

- 1) Mr. Craven agreed to submit an updated species list letter from the U.S. Department of the Interior, as the one that was included was from 2021, and “the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days.”

When can we expect an updated letter?

Operation and Maintenance Plan:

- 1) When asked about the notation in the section on the Grass Conveyance Swale and the Dry Water Quality Swale that refers to the removal of burrowing animals, Denise Cameron stated that she would “be happy to add some clarity” to this element, and to “put constraints around those decisions”. When can I expect further information in relation to how burrowing animals will be managed on-site?

When can we expect a revised copy of the Operation and Maintenance Plan?

Planning Board Solicitor Requests:

Our Planning Board Solicitor, Maggie Hogan, had two questions for the applicant as well.

Passage of Larger Mammals through the Site:

- 1) Ms. Hogan asked the applicant to address how passage for larger animals (like a bear or a coyote) would be managed or accommodated on-site, and what would be done in the event that a larger animal became trapped in the fenced in area of the array.

When can we expect information on how the applicant will address these elements?

Sustaining Native Species in and around the Solar Array Facility:

- 1) Ms. Hogan explained that her understanding of the requirement for a “plan to sustain native species in and around the solar array facility” extended to “both flora and fauna”,

and that she was “not sure that there’s sufficient information in the record yet for the Board to make a determination” that the applicant has “complied with that element.”

What does the applicant intend to put forth in relation to this request?