

One Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833

October 28, 2022

Mr. Ron Prellwitz, Chairman
Hopkinton Planning Board
1 Townhouse Rd
Hopkinton, RI 02832
Re: Skunk Hill Solar Plat18 Lots 8,13,14

Dear Mr. Prellwitz and committee members,

The Hopkinton Land Trust proposes the following items be added to the Skunk Hill Solar (SHS) project plans before any approval of this development project. This is for the purpose of addressing the ownership and rights of all parties to the generally discussed Goat Rocks trail area of the development plan during previous Planning Board meetings.

- 1) Goat Rocks Area = _____ SF, _____ ACRES of Open Space is to be conveyed to the Hopkinton Land Trust, as a conservation easement upon filing of the plans with the Town and prior to site construction. The HLT does not request ownership of the property. *(The project engineer should calculate and fill in the SF and Acres in the area above, and revise the plans to clearly define these boundaries.)* The easement shall be in effect until decommissioning of the SHS facility.
- 2) Hopkinton Land Trust, their designees, and the general public shall have use of the private road off of Arcadia Road and a parking area that accesses the Open Space corridor.
- 3) The trails within the Open Space shall be available, via this road, for hiking and passive recreation including educational activities, and enjoyment of the beauty provided by the natural surroundings there.
- 4) It is requested that Skunk Hill Solar install a gate to allow for pedestrian passage separate from a normally locked drive gate maintained by SHS for vehicle and equipment access when needed for their purposes like mowing, road and stormwater maintenance on the site. Therefore, any drive gate installation shall include provision of an opening adjacent to it for pedestrian passage only.
- 5) It is the Hopkinton Land Trust's mission to encourage preservation and protection of cultural, historical, and natural resources such as this unique area known as Goat Rocks.

6) The conveyance of a Conservation Easement to Hopkinton Land Trust will, also, accomplish multiple goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Among these are the requirements to preserve, protect and maintain Native American Traditional Cultural Places, and to acquire unique natural areas such as Goat Rocks and the nearby pond/bog, and to develop a greenway network with the adjacent Witch Rocks which was protected in 2021 by action of the planning board.


7) The Open Space, in accordance with the general Hopkinton Land Trust policy, will be closed from dusk to dawn.

8) Hopkinton Land Trust will post signage, maps and rules for use of Goat Rock trails at the trailhead on Arcadia Road and as needed along the trail expanse to help guide hikers and to identify cultural features therein.

If there are questions or concerns, please contact Cynthia Johnson at elcynj@gmail.com or 401-742-4432

Sincerely,

Cynthia Johnson, HLT Board 


Sarah Windsor, HLR chairperson

cc. Attorney Robert Craven