

Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Jonathan Smylie <jonathansmylie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 3:25 PM
To: Zoning Board of Appeals
Subject: Re: Public Hearing questions on solar tracker for 64 Island Farms Rd, Map 16 Lot 17

February 1, 2024

Dear Kim and Larry,

Thank you for sending along the updated site map regarding the proposed installation of a 24-foot-high solar tracker on Mr. Huffam's property which abuts ours. All my comments below are meant—as much as possible—to lessen the visual impact of this structure.

- 1) This new location is a welcome improvement; however, it is not where Mr. Huffam and I stood while discussing a proposed new location and since our discussion I have acquired new information which I think should be considered when settling on an exact final location for the solar tracker.
- 2) When we met, I was told that there must be a 100-foot setback between the tracker and the power lines that run along the road. Since then, I have learned from Joe Tierney that he and the electrical inspector require only an 18' horizontal clearance from any power lines.
- 3) With this new information, we request that the solar tracker be placed even further from the front of our house. The first step to achieving that would be to place it 50 feet from the road, which is the town's setback requirement. (On the new map it is placed 65 feet from the road.) This would move the tracker further away from our line of sight. And we hope it might help eliminate the need for Mr. Huffam to cut down more of the few trees remaining in his backyard. Keeping the trees that now stand between the back of his shed and our property line will help curtain the tracker from our sight.
- 4) The second move would be to place the tracker further into Mr. Huffam's yard and further away from the 51-foot proposed distance from our property line. When Mr. Huffam and I carried on our conversation we were standing about 75-feet to 100-feet from our property line. Moving the tracker 75 feet to 100 feet away from our property line would also reduce its visual impact and again might reduce the need for trees in Mr. Huffam's backyard to be cut down.
- 5) We have informed Mr. Huffam that we will be planting a row of Leyland Cypress along our property line to help block our view of the tracker. These trees will eventually grow to 40+ feet. We would hope that our neighbor takes this new information into consideration when locating the tracker. We don't want our trees to shadow his solar power. But at the currently proposed location of the tracker—51 feet from our property line—these trees, when mature, may shadow his solar panels.
- 6) Finally, to avoid all ambiguity as to where the tracker will be placed, we would like the precise location marked (or staked) on the property. Currently there is no marker on the ground as to the tracker's proposed exact location so nothing is concrete. We believe this will require a licensed surveyor to measure the property.

Thank you for giving our concerns your attention. We are moving in a positive direction and closer to a solution. These details matter, because this tracker will be 24 feet high and permanently visible from our front yard.

If you can, please share this email with Mr. Huffam and Mr. Peder before tonight's meeting so they too know this new information.

Thank you,

Jonathan Smylie

17 Old Coach Road

jonathansmylie@gmail.com

Cell: 413-454-4323

On Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 12:49 PM Zoning Board of Appeals <zba@westtisbury-ma.gov> wrote:

Hi Jonathan,

I just received this revised site plan, fyi.

Kim Leird, West Tisbury Zoning Board Administrator

From: Jonathan Smylie <jonathansmylie@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 11:21 AM

To: Zoning Board of Appeals <zba@westtisbury-ma.gov>

Subject: Re: Public Hearing questions on solar tracker for 64 Island Farms Rd, Map 16 Lot 17

Kim,

Jonathansmylie@gmail.com

new correspondence

Zoning Board of Appeals

From: samuel hall <whatdreadhand@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 5:08 PM
To: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov
Cc: sam hall
Subject: Solar PV Tracker permit application for Huffam, Rich and Natasha.

Hello, i hope this reaches you in time...

I am writing to support Rich and Natasha getting their PV Tracker permitted and installed. I believe they are on the docket for the ZBA this evening, Thursday, 1/18/24, but i am not able to attend in person. I live directly across the street from the Huffams, directly across from where the Tracker is to be installed. I am also in the solar business and was part of the team that convinced Rich and Natasha to move forward with this solar project. So its not a surprise that I'm in favor and have no objections.

These Trackers are not small, per se, but it was the best option for Rich and Natasha due to roof orientation of their house, the roof pitch, trees to the south, and so on. The Trackers are virtually soundless in operation and i think it'll blend in to the surroundings over time. It's certainly possible to shield these Trackers with some fast growing Arbor Vitae, for example.

Solar energy is consistent with the new WT town goals, of course, and we all have to start being open to certain changes that may not be perfect world, but are nonetheless part of fighting the much bigger battle for the future of the planet.

Thank you,

sh

Samuel Hall
617-320-1876

received
1/19/2024

old correspondence

Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Jonathan Smylie <jonathansmylie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 12:11 PM
To: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov
Subject: Public Hearing questions on solar tracker for 64 Island Farms Rd, Map 16 Lot 17

Hi Larry,

Our property, which is our primary residence, abuts 64 Island Farms Road. The front of our home faces the backyard of Mr. Huffam's property.

Since the dual axis solar tracker that Mr. Huffam plans to install will be erected on the land directly across from our front door, I have some questions.

- 1) Where on Mr. Huffam's property will the solar tracker be located?
- 2) Will the solar tracker cast a glare or shadow onto our home?
- 3) Will the solar tracker make noise as it turns?

Thank you for taking my questions. We'll be at the meeting tonight.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Smylie
Amy Lyon

17 Old Coach Road
Map 16 Lot 13
jonathansmylie@gmail.com
Cell: 413-454-4323