

Worthington Planning Board working Meeting:

November 6, 2025

In Attendance:

Bart Niswonger

Kate Bavelock

Nestor Mathews

Anna Maunz

Helen Sharon Pollard

David Pollard

Steve Strom

Julia Sharron

Annie Lagoy

Matthew Lagoy

Virtual:

Beth Greenblatt: Integrated Solutions

Brie Fortmuller

Mike Zhe

Drew Vardakis

Gabrielle Hayes

Meeting began at 6:30pm. Bart Niswonger gave an overview of where the application was in the process, and how both site plan review and a special permit were being sought.

The Town's consultant, Beth Greenblatt, advised the Board on areas in which the application was not yet complete and more information should be required:

1. If the applicant has applied under the DOER Smart Program can the town get a copy of that application and certification? As an agrivoltaic project eligible for MDAR tariffs, the agricultural use and management plan are of interest to the town. Mike Zhe agreed to share the plan with notations on any specs that have changed as the project evolves.
2. The racking height system with the tracking position is not shown on the plan, what is the height at its highest point? Gabrielle Hayes responded that modules vary, but likely to be 13 ½ feet at its highest tilt. Greenblatt stated that the plans should be updated as more specifics become available.
3. Is there any glare anticipated? Brie Fortmuller explained that glare is less of an issue with a tracking system, plus the panels have a non reflective surface. Greenblatt states that as the level of glare is unknown or unquantified,

perhaps the Planning Board could reach out to colleagues in other communities with similar projects to enquire about their experience.

4. More detail is needed on the battery, including:
 - Risks to the community
 - HVAC equipment needed including noise level
 - Fire suppression system and any PFAS associated with that system
 - Is there adequate water pressure available? Town water or private well?
 - Noise level of the battery
 - Documentation that the battery complies with all electric codes
 - Emergency response plan for release of liquids or vapors?
 - Remediation plan in case of release?
 - Will there be a curb on the pads in case of such a release?

Brie Fortmuller stated that Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries would be used. While the specific model has not been chosen yet, she will try to provide more information.

5. The plan shows seven utility poles – can more be done underground to eliminate some of these poles? Mike Zhe stated that an onsite meeting with Eversource is needed to make any changes to the poles.

Greenblatt asked what the Blue Wave timeline is. Brie Fortmuller stated construction was planned for 2027.

Question and Responses from Public attending meeting:

Question about the land being used for agricultural uses. Land is currently being hayed.

Question about Scenic roads act as part of the bylaw

A town member formally requests an Independent Site Suitability analysis. Bart requests that this request is made in formal writing.

A member of the public stated that the project requires visual mitigation and wants a full visual proposal about visual mitigation.

Question about a setback at 50' from property - and how it will affect the well for the neighbors.

Question about how Blue Wave intends to compensate neighbors for loss of property value.

Nestor requests that all these concerns are put in writing.

Question about changing the bylaw

Question about Financial Information from Blue Wave- they are declining to share that information.

Question about decibel level of sound movement for solar panels:

Beth clarifies: decibel level about HVAC system.

Question about field control:

- All vegetation will not be allowed to grow higher than 5' - these standards are up to the farmer.

Bart requests the farming agreement to be shared with the Planning Board

- does it rule out the use of pesticides? Response: no

The design of the array is supposed to be for flexible agricultural use.

Question of the length of lease: Initial 20 years with ability for extensions up to 40
Blue Wave is planning on developing, owning and operating.

Questions about "decommissioning assurance": amount was lite.

Question about town needing to hire an environmental engineer to understanding run-off.

- Design standards from Mass for storm water

No wind analysis done from Blue Wave.

Question about noise from wind going over solar arrays: Blue Wave says all of their projects are within the state standards for decibel allowance.

Beth Greenblatt: Because there is no clarity on the type of equipment that is being used - this application cannot be deemed complete until that information is received.

Blue Wave at this point is at 30% design plan

At time of building permits they will have 100% of equipment.

Question about Emergency Response Plan with batteries: Blue Wave says they will share their emergency response plan.

Questions about slope and water runoff and what is considered and 'impervious surface'.

Request for Beth to write requests more formally to Blue Wave.

Town Counsel will be Present at the November 20th hearing.

Question about impact analysis on the town and how best for the planning board to move forward to be able to create conditions.

Question raised about how Eversource is going to connect to the system: town member states that they will probably cut down trees on all sides of the road.

Question about the terms of the deal from Blue Wave.

Community Member suggests: CEDS: Community and Environmental Defense System: CEDS.org

Application deemed incomplete until more answers are received.

Important Dates:

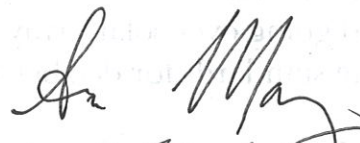
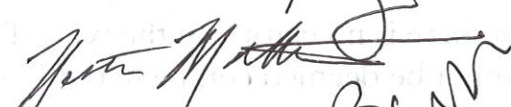
Public Hearing: November 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board Meeting: December 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board Meeting: January 15 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.

• Approval of past minutes


BN



Karl Bann