

**Planning Board Public Hearing
1/8/2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
Worthington Town Hall**

In Attendance:

Netsor Mathews
Bart Niswonger
Kate Bavelock
Kathy Ford
Anna Maunz

Others Attached

Virtual:

Others Attached

Charlie Rose: Introduction on sound system
Meeting is being recorded

Lots of sound trouble

Meeting actually begins at: 6:56

Introduction by Bart:

Here for a continuation of a public hearing.

Re-cap of the project and where we are at this current moment.

Asking for folks to hold public comment portion until the end of the presentations.

The planning board is attempting to keep track of all the questions.

Many questions will not be answered tonight.

Anna: statement of Planning Board's commitment to the town.

Bart's Conflict of Interest Statement:

Agenda

- **Review of applications for Site Plan Review and Special Permit submitted by BWC Wades Stream, LCC / BlueWave Solar for a Large**

Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation at 190 Ridge Road.

- **This is a continuation of the Public Hearing opened November 20, 2025.**

Mike Zhe gives presentation

Responses on January 2:

Slides are available online.

Mass Dep

ASTGU: Agricultural Solar Tariff Generation Unit

PILOT agreement: 10,000 megawatts

Estimated \$37,000 annually for the town

Material of concern is trace amounts of lead solder- approximately the same amount found in a cell phone.

Appendix H: Battery Energy Storage systems

Blue Wave representative had a meeting with the fire chief.

Civil Engineer:

Olivia:

Made some changes to the design: Battery storage equipment will now be outside of the water protection entirely.

Designed a berm on the east side of the project to help with ground water runoff

Further panel setbacks

Fencing is removed outside of wetland entirely

Battery supply moved outside of the water protection area.

Kate: requests a clarification of the "solar equipment" on the pad designed.

Bart: Wondering if it would be possible for Blue Wave to host a site visit, so all the boards can understand the breadth of the project

Blue wave says they will make a time for that.

Bart explains that we are waiting to hire a technical reviewer so the Planning Board can better understand the information

Department Energy Resources

Blue Wave provided the full application without the shade analysis. Bart requests the shade analysis to be included.

Bart asks about vegetative maintenance plan. Blue Wave responds that there is a plan in place - but they don't have the details at the moment.

Question posed about this being a public hearing. Bart explains this is the correct format for the public hearing.

Equipment: presumed to be driven posts
Not completed a geo technical review yet.

Field testing anticipated in the coming weeks. In the front half of this year we should receive that information.

The water supply protection district protects shallow wells.
Bart is concerned that the water flow can effect these wells.

If our technical reviewer deems that study necessary: Blue Wave would need to discuss with the technical reviewer.

Batteries:

Estimated storage capacity: exact amount will be determined at a future date.
1.5 megawatts to 3 megawatts (generally around 50% of the size) - equipment is yet to be procured.

Blue Wave: Typical duration of burn at 3 megawatts full charge would be a Long Duration incident around 12 hours. Primarily based on the amount of charge.

Temperature: How hot would that be?- need a fire engineer to respond.

Fire fighter not a fire engineer.

100' setback/ exclusion zone for the fire fighters.

Question of radius that needs protection: <100'

Question of equipment pad being within that 100'

How much water is needed to be able to fight this fire.

Question of permitting process: If town does not have full information about the BESS - how are we able to determine health and safety.

A site Plan Review: The use is already allowed- what are the reasonable conditions that a town can put on it.

Push and pull of up to date equipment

Site Plan approval: Solar panels and Bess in these locations

Conditions are met.

Building inspector will take Planning Board conditions - working in concert with everyone else

Discussion about how the town navigates understanding of batteries, fires, and conditions.

Can have reasonable conditions surrounding fire fighting. Blue Wave has to demonstrate that they have met all the conditions.

Town Counsel addresses: For the board to be comfortable approving from a public safety standpoint - they need some guidelines.

A useful range

Blue Wave can provide some ranges

1.5-3 megawatt battery

Bart requests that Blue Wave returns to their responses and gives us more information where they can.

Bart requests water supply district on all following maps.

Bart discusses Board of Health being present if folks have questions about her report.

Presentation on Fire: James Caulfield. See SLIDE Presentation attached

Moss Landing: Size was Home Depot X 3

Blue Wave is not building projects anywhere close to the size of Moss Landing.

The new design specs are within a 20' container range

Use of EPA for information.

Other events: water intrusion

Containers are rated: IP66 Enclosure rating = 1,600 GPM for 20 minutes

EPA recommends guidance of 350' for an exclusion zone.

Explosions have occurred. i.e. 2019

Regulations have changed since then and standards have been instituted.

EastHampton Long Island, NY: battery fire:

No evidence of significant off site mitigation necessary in soil

Fire department will use intermittent water for asset protection.

Public Comments:

Helen Pollard: Discussion of Moss landing slides- fire re-ignited in February.

Discussing By Right Use - and taking into account Health and Safety

Board of Health

PILOT program - question about personal protection equipment for firefighters.

Questions:

2.6.2. On Site Plan Review - 30 days for questions to be answered. They were submitted from Beth Greenblatt

11.19.2025 answers on January 2. 2026

Completely revised plan - so don't our clocks need to restart.

Conditions need to be extremely stringent without the information.

Town Counsel: Complete application vs. follow up questions.

Steven Best: Confused about construction specs. Things need safety data sheets without knowing what the soil is up there.

Firefighter: 12 hours seems false - days not weeks. How can you come up with a fire plan without wind, condensation, humidity. Question of who verifies the firefighter.

Bart responds we are hiring technical review.

Nick & Penny: Same amount of lead as a cell phone. How many cellphones total?

Can't put a cellphone in a landfill - because it leaks lead.

Question about disposal - part of lots of questions.

Patty Kimara: Question about Insurance. Property manager at the Maples. Insurance for independent living is going up. Refused a bid from insurance because we have a volunteer fire department. Is there any data about the insurance effects for abutters or for people in town - with having a facility like this in our town. How will it affect property insurance rates in town?

Krishna Gifford: BESS pad has moved outside of water protection district: How far? Will the perimeter also be outside of the water protection plan?

Blue Wave: They will get back to us with exact distances - they would say it's < 100'.

Kevin Henning: Warning about history repeating itself: Alberts Farm was on fire in 1983. No well. What happens when the wells are not able to be used

Richard Mansfield: Town used: 4,423 kilowatts/ hour

No one has said anything about clean energy. Clean energy should be an important factor in this argument.

David War:

Seeing an epidemic of lead in the area.

55,000 lbs of heavy metals in the soil. Could be 1,000 lbs of heavy metals

What sort of risks for Worthington.

Up to 900,000 gallons of water - what is Worthington's capacity to fight that fire.

Pamela Wiscinas: What happens should the current land owner no longer be capable to farm the land anymore, want to sell the land, or die.

Bart: when the land is sold - the land is still under the lease agreement.

Anne Lagoy: Abutter that will be "encapsulated by solar"

- Any analysis we have should be independent: unbiased information.
- Worthington is the coldest in MA
- Fumes from batteries would blow down the ridge line.
- A lot of things we don't know about Solar. We are becoming guinea pigs- we do not know what we don't know.
- This site is very poorly sited.
 - Slope: has not gotten degree of the slope from anyone
 - >10% slope is not suitable. Anything >20% should not be built.
 - Industrial Solar sites is closer to 650' setbacks.
 - The effects to her property will be astronomical - they will lose their livelihoods.

Meg Stewart: Proximity: If a plume should arise the site is <1 mile from the school, <1 mile the Maples (at risk populations).

Chris Marzek: Understandably worried about a fire.

Wants to know the actual number of risks of a fire.

Blue Wave Responds: Engineering and Data can provide that information

Lynn Scott: There is no benefit to the town of Worthington for energy consumption. It is not targeted to the people in our town- it will not directly affect our energy rates.

Needs to be in an area of ample and consistent sunlight. Not Worthington. Why can't Solar companies piggy back onto the energy lines.

Bart: DOER- is in the process of changing regulations

Jim Downey: Wants to ask Mr. Caulfield: preferred means to put out these fires are PFAS chemicals.

What is the way a small community is going to be able to fight these fires?

Caulfield: DO not use foams - causes more harm than good.

Jill Schneiderman: Why should we have any confidence in a chart that 2 parts/ million isn't troubling. I would like to understand better that we should be reassured by a chart created by the EPA -

JP Welch: Optimistic about the project with more questions answered.

Julie Grome: Better equipment vs worse equipment.

How are we generating good information and science about the equipment being used. TO better understand how that works.

- Maintenance
- Gasses
- Solar panels covered in snow are questionable.

Julie: Question about the escondido fire slide that was presented

Would like to note that "Fear and Emotion" feels dismissive rather than Health and Safety focus.

Questions answered in the future from Blue Wave.

Emily Larabee: address what the EPA considers safe

I think if we determine this is not safe for this community we have ground to stand on.

Trip Shaw: The town has a lot of concerns. He would like Blue Wave to just walk away from this town.

David Pollard: This is going to be a long road. Some consideration should be given to forming a committee so we can keep our aquifer safe, maybe the town can potentially purchase the land.

Compensation for the Sena family - any solution that doesn't include compensation with the Sena's will not work. To work directly with the Sena's to form a plan.

John Sullivan: Working for the fire district. We need to have all the information. Town has 3 springs, 7 wells. Wells are routed into the ground. Give me a plan- there's no way to give a real honest answer until that information is received.

Bart Proposes continuance of the meeting to February 11 2026 @ 6:30 pm at RH Conwell school

Kate Makes a motion

Kathy Seconds.

Role Call: All board members voted unanimously.

Vote: Unanimous
Meeting adjourned.

Anthony J. ...
Kate ...
B...

PLANNING BOARD

190 Ridge Road

Public Hearing

January 8, 2026

Please Print

NAME & ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

Catherin Lida Sena

413 238 5813

Tim Sena

413 238 5813

Elena Allee 86 Traver Hill

323-337-2143

Marie de Ceval

717 488 1410

Jeremy Segall

Deb Phillips

Susan Van Buren

David & Denis

John Seelkman

Deirdre Pilgram-Athen

Andreas Colbar - Athen

Ipa Guallo 860-841-8989

Mie Woodruff

Cal Walkowak 17 OLD NORTH RD

Caleb Harris / Lynne 413-238-4264

Scott 481 old Post Road

NAME & ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

Carla Blades 112 Thayer Hill 413-3290952

Steve Best 192 Parish Rd 413-231-4345

STEVE STROM 46 OLD POST RD. 238-0276

Laurie Pennell 148 Radiker Rd. 238-4470

Deb + Jay Dreschnack 116 Huntington 238-4237

Hein + David Pillard 343 Huntington Rd

R. Scott Donnell 25 Huntington Rd

Mark Lense 476 Old Post Rd

Ben Brown 180 Scott Rd.

Mike Chermesino 199 West St

Carole Fisher 199 West St.

DICK WAGNER

Mary A Koned 463 West Hill Rd

AMY WANG

Jay Dreschnack 116 HUNTINGTON RD

Brian Schick 94 Buffington Hill Rd

Levy Lennon 91 Radiker Rd

Rocky Chapman 256 West St

NAME & ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

Brigid + Michelle Ryan 150 Harvey Rd

Robert + Elena Deniolek 41 Robler Road

Cardi Langr 5 Sparkweather Rd

Diane Brenner 4 Sam Hill Rd

Mark Shapiro 41 Comma Rd

Ross + Robt Suppa West St

Paul + Jennifer Davis 449 Old North Rd.

Larry Mason

Emily Graber 138 With Hill

Memoir Messano 99 Harvey Rd

Leanne Barlett 413 246 1946 1 Barrett agreed sk

DAVID BOUTILIER 413 238 4063 415 Old North Rd

Lawrence McEwan 399 Old North Rd

Julia Johnson 32 Buffington Hill Rd

Clark Rene Vance Richardson 591 Old Post

Marian + J.P. Welch 40 Old Post Rd.

David Ward + Jill Pollack 178 Old Post

Maureen Kemvili 524 Old Post Rd.

Jan Kaminski "

NAME & ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

Peter + Susan Martindale	413 237 2472	
Peter Vardakis & Olave Crosby	W58 Oldford Mnt	
Ann Lagoy	140 Buffington	
Vance Richardson	591 Old Post	
Dore Wiggins	302 Old Post	
Paulea Wickman	302 Old Post	
Gary Quinn	626 Old Post	
Patty Kimura	454 Kinne Brook	
Sandy Miller	454 Kinnebrook	
Ramona Gallagher	40 Almon Johnson	
Kelly Vaid	66 Starkweather Hill Rd	
LANIER MATICA	61 Cold Str.	
Sam Matica	61 Cold St.	
Catherine Lease	41 Adams Rd	
Dilmer Fitzdon	118 Old North Rd	
Nacy Brown	169 Indian Ave	
John Foster	" "	
Kevin Oliver	7 Cunningham	
Sheila Kinney	28 Parish Rd.	

NAME & ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

Janett Taylor
John Lbr

Stephen Coyne

Charles R

Jenny Maas 299 River Road,
May Lake - Newcomb

Michael Dodge

Chris Rosa

Matt Yaggy

Rick Ridgour

41 Williamsburg Rd

MICHAEL J. DONDIEGO

82 LINDSEY HILL ROAD

Julie Shene

218 Huntington Rd

Krishna Gifford

219 River Road

VICKI DWIGHT

401 RIVER RD

Meg Stewart

181 River Rd

Jill Schneiderman

181 River Rd

Planning Board Meeting

January 8, 2026 . 6:05 PM . ID: 845552877

Share Status

Access: Public

Expires: January 15, 2026

Shared content: Video, Transcript, Notes, Meeting info, Insession Chat, Summary

Attendees

Bart Niswonger

Penny Molyneux

Charley Rose

Jim Molyneux

Beth Greenblatt

E Lewis

James Caulfield

Adriana Shaw

Jaime Ricci

Brie - BlueWave

Kim

Jan Elise Storm

Randy Zucco

George Coling

Kelly Wolf

Jaime Ricci

Deen

Liese

Tad Heuer

Randy Zucco

Joel Lindsay - BlueWave

Alain Peteroy

Nick & penny

MDQ

MDQ

Terrence Vaid

KelleyForrest

Kim

KelleyForrest

Liese

Alain Peteroy

Charley Rose

Beth Greenblatt

Liese

HH

HH

Terrence Vaid

Bill

Keith labrie

D Rondeau

Steven Lipsitz

D Rondeau

shy

shy

Nick & penny

Charley Rose

Jill

Steve coyne

Jeff Blake

shy

Chris reid

George

Jared Sena

HH

George

shy

Keith labrie

E Lewis

Adriana Shaw

P

Adriana Shaw

Keith labrie

Rheal

Keith labrie

Keith labrie

+14132385842

+16178998651

+12032097872

+14132385842

+14132385842

+16178998651

+16178998651

Talk Time

Organizer

04%

Attendees

96%

Bart Niswonger

00 mins . 2%

Charley Rose

01 mins . 48%

Tad Heuer

00 mins . 4%

Penny Molyneux

00 mins . 0%

Charley Rose

00 mins . 0%

Jim Molyneux

00 mins . 0%

Beth Greenblatt

00 mins . 0%

E Lewis

00 mins . 0%

James Caulfield

00 mins . 0%

Adriana Shaw

00 mins . 0%