

# Citizens' Petition Moratorium on Solar and BESS

This amendment came to the Planning Board via a Citizens' Petition to the selectboard with sufficient signatures (258) to require a Special Town Meeting. The language on the petition must be reproduced exactly on the warrant of Town Meeting. The authors of the proposed amendment referred to an old version of Worthington's Zoning By-Laws which used roman numerals for section numbering. When the language below refers to section XII, we interpret it as section 8.5 in the current version of the bylaws.

The Planning Board expects to propose an amendment at Town Meeting to adjust the reference, as well as renumber the proposed section from "XX" to 8.9.

## **Add Section XX:**

### **Section XX: Temporary Moratorium on Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems**

#### **XX.1 Purpose**

In order to allow adequate time for the Planning Board, with input from other Town boards and the public, to study, hold public forums, and propose permanent zoning amendments regarding the siting, design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations and battery energy storage systems (BESS), including but not limited to consideration of public health and safety, water resource protection, fire safety, visual impacts, and the Town's rural and scenic character, a temporary moratorium on the submission and acceptance of applications for special permits, site plan review, or building permits for such facilities is hereby established.

#### **XX.2 Moratorium**

For the effective period of this bylaw, no board, commission, or official of the Town of Worthington shall accept, process, or act upon any application for a special permit, site plan approval, building permit, or any other permit or approval related to the construction or installation of a Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation (as defined in Section XII of the Zoning Bylaw) or a Battery Energy Storage System greater than 600 kWh, whether standalone or co-located.

#### **XX.3 Term**

This moratorium shall expire on **June 30, 2027**, unless ended earlier by a vote of Town Meeting or extended by a subsequent vote of Town Meeting.

**XX.4 Severability** If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.