

Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations Moratorium In Limited Areas

Add Section 8.5.7. as follows:

The Town of Worthington has placed a temporary moratorium on Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (LSGMSPI) in the Worthington Water Supply District, the Flood Plain and Westfield River Protection District, the Westfield River Watershed (designated as an Outstanding Resource Water), MassWildlife BioMap3 Core Habitats, and Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPA) around all Public Water Supplies for the purposes of updating protective zoning by-laws as well as creating a Solar Overlay District. The Solar Overlay District will provide Designated Locations (Section 8.5.3) based on site suitability criteria in order to strengthen protection of highly vulnerable water and environmental resources. Protection of these critically important public water sources is incompatible with hazardous materials potentially released from solar equipment due to fire, vandalism and extreme weather events, as well as site disruption, fracture of the hydrologic barrier and erosion from large scale installations. The moratorium is in effect in those critical areas to provide urgent protection to the public's health and safety. LSGMSPI shall continue to be allowed in the remainder of the town. The moratorium shall be in effect through June 30, 2027 or until the town adopts amendments to the Zoning By-law Section 8.5 to adopt a Solar Overlay District map and other necessary revisions to protect the safety of the public and public drinking water, and align the By-Law with state and federal conservation regulations.