

**Planning Board Meeting January 29 2026 6:30 p.m. Town Hall**

**In Attendance**

Bart Niswonger  
Kathy Ford  
Kate Bavelock  
Nestor Mathews  
Anna Maunz  
  
Anne Lagoy  
Emily Larabee  
Helen Pollard  
Julia Sharon  
Ramona Gallegher

**Virtual:**

Kevin O'Connor  
Trip Shaw  
Steve Coyne  
Cathy Pease

**Agenda**

**• Discussion of bylaw amendments**

Talked about email from Town Counsel and conversation with Ken Comia

**8.5.7**

"To see if The Town of Worthington will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw section 8.5.7"

**8.8**

"To add section 8.8 the Town of Worthington has placed a temporary moratorium on large capacity storage systems on the list of districts....."

And also to amend section 10 of the bylaws and add a subsection to 8.8 of this bylaw.

Kate Bavelock makes a motion for us to approve the language for ESS and Solar moratorium and the language for the amendments as well as adding definitions.

Kathy Ford seconds

All in favor: Aye

**• Draft moratorium language and maps**

PVPC is working on map overlay: question about including APR land in maps

Maps currently show space for batteries in 13% of the town.

**• Opportunity for Public Comment**

Can all large scale Solar be a special permit?

Discussion about current Supreme Court case - because it is protected use.

Questions about Solar as Industrial.

Possible thought for the future. ESS as special permit?

Threshold of special permit being required for any projects in the watershed.

Site Plan Review BYLAW amendment: question about more than 7 days before the date of the public hearing.

Kate wonders if that is Mass General Law.

Question about if there is a way to let the public know about larger Site Plan Reviews.

The timing?

Potential about using Charlie's notifications for larger scale projects.

Public Interest Items being more accessible. - Would help with community trust.

Notification about abutters: talk to assessors - about letters going to both p.o. Boxes, mailing addresses.

People want to be involved and want to know what is going on

Announcement of hearing will be going out through Charlie's info.

**• Discussion of large scale solar project proposed for 190 Ridge Road**

-Discussion of hearing on the same evening as the Special Town Meeting.

- Question of when we will receive geo technical review

**• Possible kick off conversation with David Loring / PARE Corp regarding**

**Technical Review**

-Glare study needed to be added to list of questions. Computer model based on

- Cumulative noise/ vibration studies

- Frost Heaves: could it compromise the panels

- Flooding: what would the water level need to rise for the BESS to be infiltrated.

- Erosion study

**• Opportunity for Public Comment**

No possibility of Vote of No Confidence

Could they already have secured their incentives?

They won't get incentives until they're producing power.

Wants to see the insurance policy, a sufficient policy to protect the people in town.

Policy available in effect. 3rd party claim - anyone who has a loss is going to need to go through an attorney.

History of well pollution

Lease agreement: redacted information may have to do with

Legal counsel: If the selectboard is open to providing a secondary legal counsel. The Planning Board would have to request a second opinion. Charlie is going to enter conversation with Town Counsel about options. "Land use attorneys". Michael Pill, Michael Hugo

**• Other business**

Public holding a summit to invite Michael Hugo to speak.  
Application for Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for 105 Old Post Road Worthington Ma

**• Approval of past minutes**

**TO DOs:**

Research Mass General Law: 2.6.7 A. More than 7 days before the public hearing.  
Bart will put bylaw amendment on the website and warrant.

Question for Beth: Blue Wave's insurance policy, a sufficient policy to protect the people in town.  
Policy available in effect. 3rd party claim - anyone who has a loss is going to need to go through an attorney.

Case BN BN  
[Handwritten signatures in blue ink]