

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Solar Energy Law Workshop on the 18th day of April at 3:00 PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Benjamin Bauer	Supervisor
Tom Hohensee	Councilperson
Chris Kjolhede	Councilperson
Deb Dalton	Councilperson
Pat Kennedy	Councilperson

Also Present:

Gregory Farmer	Executive Director of the Otsego Land Trust
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Bauer called the meeting to order and asked everyone in attendance to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bauer welcomed the Executive Director of the Otsego Land Trust Gregory Farmer. Farmer complimented the Town Board on their Solar Energy Law *draft*. Items he felt the Town Board should take into consideration were as follow:

The State can override any local ordinance that is deemed unreasonable, so the town ordinance must allow some opportunity for development.

He talked at the meeting about excluding commercial renewal energy installations from:

- Wetland and aquifers
- Prime soils (as defined and mapped by the State)
- Habitats that host rare or endangered plants or animals
- Properties that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Properties that are protected *in perpetuity* by a conservation easement.

When a proposal is brought forward, the Town might also consider:

- Set back and visibility.
- Limits on the removal of forests
- Controls to prevent erosion by wind or water.
- How the proposed project is constructed. You might want to stay away from steel posts placed below plow depth.

Any proposed project should include a future plan for decommissioning. Ideally that plan would return the land to a condition that can accommodate the previous use (forest or farming). The Town may also consider the potential for enforcement if a renewable energy installation is abandoned, poorly maintained, or ceases to produce electricity for a period of more than three months.

The Town Board thanked Mr. Farmer for his suggestions and time.

The Town Board continued to review more of the proposed Solar *draft*.

It was decided to schedule the next Solar Law Workshop for May 16th, at 3:00 PM.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela Deane
Town Clerk