

MINUTES OF A MEETING AS HELD BY THE
TOWN OF AURORA PLANNING & CONSERVATION BOARD

August 5th, 2026

Members Present: Chairman, Doug Crow
Chris Contento
Angela Griffis
Bill Heidt
Tim Stroth

Alternate Member: Kate Welker
Bill Fierle

Absent/ Excused: Norm Merriman
Laurie Kutina

Also Present: Rich Miga, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer
Jackson Guthrie, Residential Project Mgr. from Green Spark Solar

Chairman, Doug Crow presided over the meeting which began at 7:03 p.m. at the Town Hall, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, NY. He led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Tim Stroth makes a motion to approve May 6th, 2026, minutes.
Second by Chris Contento**

Upon a vote being taken:

Ayes- 7

Noes- 0

Motion carried

Chairman, Doug Crow states Bill Fierle and Kate Welker are voting members tonight.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Chairman, Doug Crow introduces the newly appointed Planning Board alternatives, Kate Welker and Bill Fierle.

South Towns Working Group: Tim Stroth states there was a quarterly meeting, which he was able to attend. Most of the information that was shared was regarding Food Systems. He will advise members of upcoming quarterly meeting in hope that others may choose to join him.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Town Board referral of a Special Use Permit application for 2100 Lewis Rd., SBL #201.00-3-13.132, as submitted by Jackson Guthrie of Green Spark Solar, on behalf of the property owner, Robert Fontaine.

Chairman, Doug Crow invites Jackson Guthrie to come forward and make his presentation to the Board.

Jackson Guthrie stated the resident has two existing ground mounted solar arrays on the property and wished to expand. The application is for an expansion to include a sixteen panel (one array) to the current system but keeping it under the allowable 25 kilowatts for a residential system.

Chairman, Doug Cow states the existing ground mounted system installed in 2015 did not need board approval. The present solar code, as of 2019, requires a Special Use Permit for any ground mounted systems.

Bill Fierle questions the accuracy of the 21 square feet of field space as stated in the application.

Jackson Guthrie acknowledges discrepancy.

CEO, Rich Miga states that under current zoning code 800 square feet of panels are allowed per acre, and the property is over 27 acres.

Bill Fierle asks if it meets the 110 feet to the east? It is not defined on the survey.

Multiple people talking regarding survey distances.

CEO, Rich Miga states that this structure must be two times the required accessory structure setback or twenty feet. So, one hundred and ten feet is well above the requirement.

Chris Contento asks regarding current panels at property, the life expectancy of the panels.

Jackson Guthrie states it is twenty-five to thirty years but can go beyond.

Chairman, Doug Crow asks if at that time can panels can be changed out and ground mounts be reused?

Jackson Guthrie states it is not impossible. There are many different manufacturers.

Tim Stroth states there is a drawing in the packet by Jesse Light, PE indicating dimensions of 22.8 x 15.04 feet which is approximately 343 square feet.

Angela Griffis states that on the SEQR there is mention of wetland.

Jackson Guthrie states there is a freshwater pond. (He provided photos to Board members.)

Multiple people talking.

Tim Stroth suggests to applicant to specify in the survey all structures and accurate measurements to be provided to Town Board. It will provide a clearer picture, thus eliminating some questions.

Chairman, Doug Crow asks for a motion.

Chris Contento makes a motion to the Planning Board to recommend to the Town Board to approval the Special Use Permit as submitted with revised letter with accurate area description of the array and an updated survey showing location of the array from the east, as well as accurate measurements and structure locations.

Seconded by: Chairman, Doug Crow

Upon a vote being taken:

Ayes- 7

Noes- None

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tim Stroth makes a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by: Bill Fierle

Upon a vote being taken:

Ayes- 7

Noes- 0

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND, at 7:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 575 OAKWOOD AVENUE, EAST AURORA, NEW YORK