

Joint Public Hearing Minutes
Planning Board / Stormwater Authority
Site Plan Review & Special Permit – Solar, Bobala
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, November 24, 2015, the Holyoke Planning Board held a joint Public Hearing regarding a Site Plan Review for the property located on Bobala Road, submitted by SHR Energy Management, LLC. The hearing was held in the 4th Floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Holyoke, Massachusetts at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Planning Board

Mimi Panitch Chairperson
Christian LaChapelle..... Vice-Chairman
John Kelley Member
Harry Montalvo Associate

Planning Staff

Jeffrey Burkott Principal Planner
Sharon Konstantinidis Head Clerk

Others Present

Steven Marsden Marsden Engineering, Inc.

MIMI PANITCH at 6:39 p.m., called for a motion to open the Public Hearing. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHEPELLE. The motion carried 4-0. The Public Hearing process was explained and noted that Section 7.9.2 of the City Ordinance allows solar facilities in all zoning districts.

The Stormwater Authority opened their Public Hearing and meeting (2-0-1).

STEVEN MARSDEN showed the location of the proposed Bobala Road site on the map. He explained that the proposed location was on an existing field currently owned by Dinn Brothers Inc. The proposal calls for the development of 2052 solar panels on a 5-1/2 acre parcel encompassed with a black vinyl fence. There would be no change in topography or earth work needed, and no trees removed along Bobala Road or the western boundary; a few trees on the south side would be cut for shading purposes. Additional plantings were proposed along the existing chain-link fence. There would be no work within the 100-foot buffer zone. To limit sedimentation and erosion on the access road, paving would extend 20 feet inside the fence. Along the access road would be an infiltration trench to channel any infiltration. A 2x2 stone open swale will allow stormwater recharge on site.

YEM LIP stated that the plans were in compliance and he read the Stormwater Permit conditions. The Stormwater Permit was issued.

JEFFREY BURKOTT stated that the applicant had complied with the criteria as outlined in Section 7.9 of the Solar Ordinance, and there were no concerns submitted from the various reviewing departments. The applicant did not have to present before the Conservation Commission or Natural Heritage.

MIMI PANITCH asked for those that wish to speak in favor or against, or to ask questions to come forward. No one was forthcoming.

At 6:48 p.m., a motion was made by JONH KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Eileen Regan,
Holyoke Planning Board