

Joint Public Hearing Minutes
Planning Board
Site Plan Review – Solar, Forestdale Cemetery
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, the Holyoke Planning Board held a Public Hearing regarding a Site Plan Review for the property located on Rock Valley Road, submitted by SHR Energy Management, LLC. The meeting 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
Eileen Regan	Secretary
John Kelley	Member
Harry Montalvo	Associate

Planning Staff

Marcos Marrero	Director
Jeffrey Burkott	Principal Planner
Sharon Konstantinidis	Head Clerk

Others Present

John LaRose	154 Rock Valley Rd.	Suzanne Parker	Girls Scouts Inc.
Steve Marsden	Marsden Engineering	John J. Driscoll	330 Whitney Ave.
Paul Murray	Forestdale Cemetery	Liz & Porter Burns	144 Rock Valley Rd.
Richard Whiting Jr.	Forestdale Cemetery	Charles Bluemer	114 Rock Valley Road

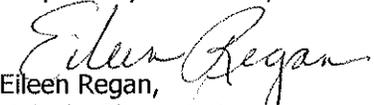
MIMI PANITCH, at 5:13 p.m., called for a motion to reopen the Public Hearing. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE. The motion carried 4-0.

MIMI PANITCH stated that the Public Hearing had been continued to allow for a site visit which held on Friday, December 4, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. She asked for those that wished to speak in favor or against, or to ask questions to come forward.

ELIZABETH BURNS submitted a Federal IRS website document and asked, under Section #4.76.21.2, how the cemetery could develop a solar field for profit when they classify themselves as a non-profit. Where were the "increase in taxes" generated. The development of a 20-year solar field in their backyard was a difficult concept to accept; she was not in favor of the development. STEVE MARSDEN replied that the solar panels were considered personal property and would be taxed accordingly.

CHARLIE BLUEMER asked who would be responsible if his 100-foot pine trees fall toward the solar array. STEVE MARSDEN replied that it would be a question better directed to his insurance company.

At 5:19 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Planning Board, a motion was made by CHRIS LACHAPELLE and seconded by JOHN KELLEY to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Regan,
Holyoke Planning Board