

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Date: February 10, 2014
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: The Carlton French Room-Sheffield Town Hall

Members Present:

Don Ward, Chairman
James Collingwood, Sr.
Cheryl Blackburn

Members Not Present:

Howard Chezar
Peter Stiglin

Minutes Recorded By:

Jill Hughes

General Public in Attendance:

Kirt Mayland
Charles Caron

Chairman Don Ward called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Public Hearing, Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Housatonic Solar 1, LLC, for property on 66 East Stahl Road, Construction of a 1.17 MW ground mounted solar array. The work will include the installation of the solar panels and electrical equipment, trenching and the installation of a fence.

Kirt Mayland was present for the applicant along with engineer Charles Caron. The property consists of 21 acres of which 10 acres are cleared. The solar panels will be placed on a 5 acre site on the 10 acre piece that is cleared. The proposed site is an old gravel pit. Mr. Caron informed the Commission that there are isolated wetland areas that are 100 feet away from site. It appears that the gravel was dug into the bank too deep in those areas. Chairman Ward noted that the water table is high in that area.

The Commission inquired as to the aging expectation/efficiency of a PV site. Mr. Mayland responded that a 40 year lease is negotiated and it is 80% efficient at the end of the term. After the lease is up they pull the panels out and clean up the area to restore it to its natural state. There is a renewing bond so the money is there to do that. Mr. Mayland explained that there will be 10-12 feet between the rows of panels and the area will be mowed two times a year. There will be a fence around the area for security. A discussion ensued about the process of construction of the site, which would begin in May.

Don Ward motioned, with a second from Cheryl Blackburn to issue a negative determination on this application. The motion passed 3-0.

Minutes:

The Commission reviewed draft minutes for the January 13, 2014 meeting. *Cheryl Blackburn motioned, with a second from Don Ward to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes as written. The motion passed 3-0.*

Bills Pending:

Outstanding bills were addressed.

Mail:

Mail was distributed and read.

Other Business:

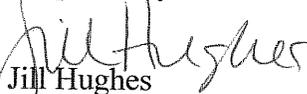
- The Board reviewed and discussed the FY2015 budget recommendation from the Town Administrator. The Commission asked the clerk to inquire about the account that NOI fees go into and how that money is used.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Commission this evening, *Don Ward motioned, with a second from Cheryl Blackburn to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.*

The following documents were reviewed during the Board's meeting and have been retained as required by the Massachusetts Public Retention Policy: Meeting Agenda; Sign in sheet; Draft meeting minutes 1/13/14; Public Hearing file: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Housatonic Solar 1; Bills Payable sheet; FY2015 Budget Detail.

Respectively submitted by:



Jill Hughes
Conservation Commission Clerk

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: February 10, 2013

Name – PLEASE PRINT	Street, Town
1. KAT Maryland	Avon, CT
2. Charles Caron	Caron Environmental Consulting
3. _____	
4. _____	
5. _____	
6. _____	
7. _____	
8. _____	
9. _____	
10. _____	
11. _____	
12. _____	
13. _____	
14. _____	