

Town of Bristol

Planning Board Minutes of July 6, 2020

Present: Joann Rogers, Patti Giordano, Bob Stryker, Justin Steinbach, Karen Ellmore, and Secretary Sandra Riker

Others present: Haylee Ferington from GFLRPC, Marty Snyder, and Supervisor Robert Green

Presentation: Haylee Ferington representing the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council provided us with a presentation on: The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act, “The Act”, Sect 94-c of the NY executive law in April of 2020. This created the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, “The Office” that replaces the Article 78 siting process used by the NYS Government to help facilitate the Governor’s goal of 70% x 2030 of “Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

She had reviewed our current 2019 Town of Bristol solar law and noted that it includes residential, community, and utility/transmission scale and was well thought out but did not include anything about Battery Storage for Solar Project. Part of the presentation provided us with an overview of Southwestern Ontario County soils and their agricultural importance. The presentation ended with the following suggestions:

1. Battery Energy Storage System siting local law be considered.
2. Evaluate potential “build-ready sites” for the Office.
3. Standardize siting process (recommend consultant, attorney, and code official fees be put into ESCROW at onset of project, with specific \$/MW.)
4. Evaluate community needs to create list of asks.

Board members wanted to know if any communities in our area had a battery energy storage system law in place? Haylee indicated that Mount Morris was close to having one completed with several other towns working on one through the moratoria process. Justin Steinbach said he would reach out to Livingston County for any information that might have regarding the status of the BESS law.

Another question raised was regarding financial stability of the wind and solar projects already in place. Haylee said she would make an effort to get us some data on financials.

Supervisor Green asked if Haylee would be willing to come to the next Town Board meeting and share her presentation and knowledge on the “The Act”? She said she would and will be coming to the Town Board meeting on August 10th at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Riker

Town of Bristol
Planning, ZBA, and Code Office Assistant