

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Public Hearing

Local Law #1 of 2022

**To Establish and Impose a Temporary three (3) Month Moratorium
On Large Scale Energy Installation Within the Town of Claverack**

April 14, 2022

A Public Hearing in regards to a three (3) month moratorium on large scale energy installations was held at 6:00 p.m. at the former Claverack Library, #629 Rte. #23-B, Claverack, Columbia County, New York. This hearing was Zoomed to the public due to COVID-10 restrictions. Hearing opened by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Douglas Colwell	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

George Duntz	Councilman
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The moratorium was explained by Attorney Fitzsimmons. It is to stop new installations under NYSERDA guidance. Discussed set-backs, (now 100'), glare, screening, need for escrow account, need to be informed when change of ownership occurs, minor and quick fixes. Three months does not have to go to County Planning.

Brenda Shufelt said this was a good idea. Town can take time to look at things that should be changed in the law and also consider if local labor can be acquired.

Councilwoman Cashen read letter from Richard Harrison, supporting a moratorium on large-scale solar installation. Not against solar panels, but should be placed on parking lots and rooftops, not farmland. Even if not prime farmland, can be used for hay and grazing. There's nothing "green" about destroying farmland, forest and wetlands for solar panels. These installations have a negative effect ecologically as they warm the land beneath them, changing native habitat. Also, there is an EMF hazard component to these installations that we could learn of in the future if neighboring residents begin suffering from ill health as a result of the frequencies emitted by the installations. Appreciates and encourages the Board's slowing down the process and looking at the unexpected issues that have arisen as well as the potential problems and detriments to the Town residents from these large-scale solar installations.

Jim – What can Town do so that problems like in Stottville don't happen again?

Peter Johnson – Should not allow more installations until there is more scientific information in making a determination.

Scott – To make it easier on Planning Board, Town Board can do this and he would be happy to meet with them.

Donna Davi – In favor of moratorium. Many points to keep in mind. Who would be drafting the law?

Ian Nitschke – These installations have a serious impact on historic properties.

Another gentleman stated he would sit down with the Board and is presently working with Chatham.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Colwell**, to adopt a three (3) month moratorium on large scale energy installations within the Town of Claverack. Carried.

Town Clerk