

Richmond Planning Board Meeting
Town Hall
Minutes
February 13, 2023

Members present: Richard Bell, Douglas Bruce, John Hanson (Chairman), Katherine Keenum, Pete Lopez

The meeting opened at 6:30 P.M.

1. Mr. Hanson reported that he had received a telephone call from a solar installer who expects to submit an application to the Town to place a ground-mounted solar array at a Richmond residence. It will be large enough to require a special permit, for which the Planning Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority. Because this will be the first such application received in Richmond, Mr. Hanson wanted to review the relevant sections of the *Zoning Bylaw* with Board members. Discussion highlighted the following points:

- Section 4.8.B.17c requires a special permit for a ground-mounted solar energy system that is greater than 750 square feet or more than 15 feet in height.
- Section 13 provides additional regulations to govern accessory ground-mounted solar energy systems.
- Special permits seek to minimize the impact on and loss of scenic, natural, agricultural and historic resources, and the character of residential neighborhood without prohibiting the activity in question.
- As a state-designated Green Community, Richmond encourages the use of solar energy.
- A site visit for Board members may be scheduled and would be open to the public.
- The special permitting process will probably take two months because of the necessary notifications for a public hearing and its scheduling.

As an action item, Vice Chairman Bruce undertook to work with Mr. Hanson in implementing the necessary procedural steps.

2. Mr. Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2022. Mr. Lopez seconded. The vote in favor of approval was unanimous, 5–0.

Mr. Hanson reported that no word had yet been received from the Attorney General's Office concerning the recreation bylaw amendment that was passed at Town Meeting on May 18, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M. on the dot.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Keenum, Clerk