Minutes of April 13, 2021 Germantown Town Board Solar Law Workshop, via Zoom, commencing at 6:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Beaury
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beaury opened the workshop.

Jen Crawford went over the Solar Zoning Structure.
Tier 1- Roof mount
Tier 2- Ground mount
Tier 1 & 2- are the same size
Tier 3- Is everything else, systems not included in Tiers 1 & 2

There was more discussion on Tier 3. Councilman Kukon brought up the Town of Livingston their law is only permitting commercial solar in the commercial district and the solar in the commercial district and the solar companies are trying to get easements to cross over properties. Chris Brown mentioned they need to be within 3 miles of the sub-station. Councilman Sullivan suggested break up Tier 3 to prepare for the law so there are not constant changes to the law. Supervisor Beaury agreed. Supervisor Beaury suggested leaving the kilowatts at 25 for Tier 1 & 2. Jen asked the Town Board to think about what requirements they would want for Tier 3 done differently. Jen discussed the applicability and approvals. Tier 1- would just have to see the CEO Tier 2- maybe site plan review for commercial Tier 3- planning board, special use permit Town Board will look more in depth.

Jen showed charts on bulk dimensions and NYSERDA recommendations. Supervisor Beaury would like the Planning Board to look at these dimensions and make recommendations. NYSERDA recommended these standards for Tier 3:
Underground utilities
Minimize Impervious Surfaces
Signage
Glare
Lighting
Tree clearing
Fencing
Visual screening
Development on Ag lands
Decommissioning
Fire department access

Corinne said they will base on a project-by-project basis on what to be done. Supervisor Beaury would like Jen, Chris, and Corinne to draft a document so the Town Board could focus on the different areas. Jen asked the Town Board if they would like her to start with the basic solar law? Supervisor Beaury would like the Planning Board to give their recommendations on bulk dimensions so they could have it for the next meeting. Jen lastly asked would the board like a different solar overlay in a different category than we have now. Supervisor Beaury said we will stick to what we have now. Councilman Sullivan agreed. Corinne said it might complicate the process to do an overlay.

Workshop was closed at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,