

**TOWN OF BARRE  
PLANNING BOARD WORK MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom Keeler                      Wes Miller  
Jean Depatie                      Kurt Dudley  
Kirk Mathes                      Jean Peglow  
Dr. George McKenna

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Watson

Others present: Sean Pogue, Tom McCabe

**I.     OLD BUSINESS**

The reason for meeting was to go over the questions that Shellye had on the Solar Policy, fees and to start working on the possible battery storage policy.

Dr. McKenna disclosed that he possibly will be putting up solar with battery backup.

Solar:

- With the difference between 350-115C and 350-119 they should both say the planning board will review and make a recommendation to the Town Board who will make the final decision
- 350-115 B states solar system building permit and another just has building permit. They should both just say building permit because we do not have a solar system building permit.
- 350-117 (3) We discussed not allowing solar directly in the front of the house so that the house was visible from the road. Wes talked with a fire fighter and having a large SC in front of the house is an issue when doing a fire/situation assessment. He assumes this would go for police or rescue too.

Fees:

- We do not have fees for commercial things in the fee schedule
- Mr. Keeler looked up Ridgeway's but will double check with them.
  - You are responsible for paying the inspection fees or are charged \$1,000
  - \$2,500 application submission plus .025 per square feet building permit fee or determined by resolution
- Mr. Keeler also looked up Stafford's.
  - Had to set up an escrow account of \$150,000.00

- (SEF)
- Company should pay for fees and any studies that need to be done
- Should always ask for a CESIR before starting
- We should be consistent with all fees – wind/solar/etc.
- We should make them pay fees but not have an escrow because we don't want to manage their money
- Article 10 have a different set of rules
- Need guidance from experts
- Should include in our zoning ordinance that any fees for studies that may be required must be paid by the applicant that may be deemed necessary by the planning/town board

Battery Storage:

- Need expert to help with this as well.
- Should we do a moratorium? Six months?

We need to make a recommendation to the Town Board on the changes to the Solar Policy and the moratorium before their meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting broke up at 7:15 pm.

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Lee A. Preston, Clerk