

Town of Northumberland
September 14, 2017
Public Hearing

Supervisor Willard Peck called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:00 PM. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive the public's comments of proposed Local Law #2 of 2017 – A Local Law Amending Local Law #4 of the year 2006 and repealing Local Law #2 of the year 2016. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck; Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilman John DeLisle; Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy; Town Attorney Douglas Ward and Building and Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza.

Town Attorney Douglas Ward gave a general overview of the proposed Local Law. Attorney Ward made clear that his overview was for background purposes only and that the actual terms of the Local Law as adopted, rather than his background description, would be controlling. Under the proposed Local Law Freestanding/Ground-Mounted Solar Collection Systems would be allowed only in the Agricultural Protection District (ADP); Industrial (I) and the Landfill (LF) District. Setbacks, required lot sizes, and other requirements for these systems would vary under the Local Law dependent on whether the systems were defined under the Local Law as Permitted Accessory Uses or Special Permit Uses. Freestanding/Ground-Mounted Solar Collection Systems are not allowed in the R-1 (Residential), R-3 (Residential), Mobil Home (MH), Commercial Residential (C/R) or Hamlet (H) Zone.

Large rooftop solar collection systems, which were designed to exceed a "customer generator's" use by more than 10% are allowable by special permit only in the Agricultural Protection District (ADP); Industrial (I) and the Landfill (LF) District. All other rooftop solar collection systems are allowable in all districts as Permitted Accessory Structures provided that they are installed in compliance with the requirements of the Local Law.

At this point Supervisor Willard Peck opened the Public Hearing for Comments.

Brent McDevitt with Apex Solar Power stated that he felt the Local Law was too restrictive. Mr. McDevitt stated that not all homes can have roof top mounted solar collection systems due to which way their roof is facing for maximum exposure of sun or shape of their roof. Mr. McDevitt stated that you could have large parcels 4 +/- acre lots in the District's that presently do not allow free standing/ground mounted solar collection systems which would serve their needs better vs roof top. Mr. McDevitt stated that he is not suggesting solar farms in these areas, just to serve the home's needs. Supervisor Peck stated that the Planning Board reviewed the proposed Local Law and strongly felt that the free standing/ground mounted solar collection systems should be limited to the Agricultural Protection District, Industrial and Landfill Districts.

Bob Vittengl, with Apex Solar Power, stated that the panels needed for the average home is minimal and would not be these big eyesores. Mr. Vittengl provided pictures of free standing/ground mounted solar collection systems so the Town Board could see how they blend in.

There were no additional comments from the public. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing @ 7:40 PM. Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Murphy, Town Clerk