



To: Donald Serotta, Planning Board Chairman
Alfred Fusco, PE

Subject: OCCF Solar Farm; response to Alfred Fusco letter of June 7th

The following information and comments are in response to Mr. Fusco's letter of June 7th regarding the proposed community solar system at 23-26 White Oak Drive.

1. Visual impact: The topography of the site, the location selected for the solar array, and the existing vegetation along the west side will make the array minimally visible from any of the surrounding roads or properties. All of the nearby roadways and homes are lower in elevation than the array location, and the array is set back at least 100 feet from all property lines. The proposed added screening will block the sides of the array that would potentially otherwise be visible. Therefore, we don't believe further visual impact analysis is necessary.
2. Fence type: The 2014 National Electric Code section 690.31(A) requires that the system circuit conductors be "guarded", and for ground mounted solar arrays adequate fencing is considered to satisfy this guarding requirement. We are recommending a 6 foot high woven wire steel agricultural fence with wooden posts, which we believe will both provide adequate guarding and be minimally visible and suitable for the neighborhood. We caution that a rustic fence, while aesthetically pleasing, may not provide the required adequate guarding.
3. We have changed the screening to the recommended forsythia, but suggest that the site topography and existing vegetation make it unnecessary on the south side and south end of the west side, with the exception of the corners.
4. While we understand Mr. Fusco's comments about salvaging, decommissioning the system will yield approximately 42,000 pounds of steel, 11,000 pounds of aluminum, and 1,300 pounds of copper wire. These metals will yield significant scrap value and will probably not simply dumped in a landfill regardless of who performs the decommissioning.