

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
**Conway Public Hearing on Changes to Article 9 of the
Protective Bylaws of the Town of Conway**

For information, contact Beth Girshman 413-369-6079 or planningboard@townofconway.com

The Planning Board invites all Conway residents to a public hearing on Wednesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm to discuss changes to the Town's Zoning Bylaws, including changes to Article 9 of the Conway Protective Bylaws covering Large Scale Solar Facilities.

One proposed change to the Bylaws, Article 2, would remove a parcel of land known as the Fournier Parcel at 24 Fournier Road from the Solar Electric Overlay District. In 2013, the Town amended its Bylaws to allow solar installations as a matter of right on four parcels of Town-owned land, including the Fournier Parcel. In 2019, the Town used grant funds, procured through the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, to prepare a forest stewardship plan for all town-owned forest lands. The Fournier Parcel is one of those town-owned forest parcels and is currently included in Conway's Solar Overlay District zoning map. The Planning Board is recommending the removal of the Fournier Parcel from the Solar Overlay District, which requires an amendment to the Bylaw. The remaining three parcels of land left in the Solar Overlay District would satisfy the requirement of Green Community status that there be sufficient open space to permit a solar installation that would generate 250 kw of electricity.

A second proposed change to Article 9 of the Bylaws would be to change the permitting process for larger scale Solar Installations. These potential changes were spurred by issues identified during the construction of a Large Scale Solar Facility on Main Poland Road. Several changes are being considered, including but not limited to requiring a Special Permit for facilities larger than 250KW to 5,000 KW (1 – 20 acres of panel coverage area), increasing the setbacks from residences and public ways, and requiring screening and fencing to reduce the impact on surrounding parcels. The Planning Board would like to hear from interested residents to determine whether changes to the Bylaw would be supported by the Town.

In addition to the changes proposed for Article 9 the Town is also considering an administrative revision to Article 6 of the Bylaws to change "Board of Selectmen" to "Selectboard."

This public hearing will be held in accordance with state mandated social distancing requirements. The hearing will be accessible via Zoom - links for internet connection as well as via call in are below. The session will be recorded and available for later viewing/listening. Contact the Planning Board chair, Beth Girshman, for more information at planningboard@townofconway.com.

To join the meeting, click here <http://bit.ly/3-24SolarBylawPublicHearing>
Meeting ID: 857 3654 7359
Passcode: 614366

Or call in from any phone, including land lines: 929-205-6099