

Conway Planning Board Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 7 p.m.
Location: TOWN HALL

Present for Planning Board: George Forcier, Chair; Jeff Lacy, Phyllis Craine (Zoom), Cheryl Case, Lara Matta Moebius, alternate Jennifer Mullins. **Also**, board consultant Christopher Chamberland of Berkshire Design Group, and applicant representatives: Joel Lindsay and Steven McDonough of BlueWave Solar and Weston and Sampson engineer Melinda Costello and Kevin LaMalva, Fire & Risk Alliance (via Zoom)

Reviewed and approved minutes of June 25 and 30, 2026.

Fourth session of public hearing for BlueWave Solar application for special permit and site plan review for 20-acre dual use solar farm on Roaring Brook Road land owned by Ron Boyden.

Discussion of several sticking points, many previously discussed or raised by board, its consultant and the public.

Slope: BlueWave has changed its interpretation of “slope” to coincide with that expressed previously by board members. Some areas of the original array fall beyond the 18 percent slope allowed by the bylaw. Other areas also identified as between 15 and 18 percent, for which the developer plans to seek a waiver, as allowed by law.

Equipment pad: Discussed the possibility, preferred by some board members, of moving the pad behind farm barns, out of sight of passersby. BlueWave reps noted several challenges to moving, but will consider the suggestion and get back. One option would be simply to screen the equipment in the currently proposed location. Placing the battery canister too close to the barn might pose fire hazards and could threaten the barn’s foundations, it was noted.

Screening: While the latest BlueWave amendments show extra screening near Roaring Brook Road-Route 116 intersection, the chair asked if the screening, possibly raised on a berm, could run between 116 and the farm buildings, to minimize the visual impact from the state “scenic highway.” BlueWave will consider the idea and get back.

Battery Energy Storage System: More general discussion about potential hazard mitigation from overheating. Chamberland noted the state energy officials do not consider such BESS canisters as a leak hazard.

Adjourn at 9:10

Next session date to be decided, tentatively Aug. 11.