

Durham Town Planner

Town of Durham

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**From:** Mary Downes [mailto:[mary.downes.7@gmail.com](mailto:mary.downes.7@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2018 8:10 PM  
**To:** Michael Behrendt  
**Subject:** Solar ordinance

I neglected to issue comments in the draft solar ordinance in advance of tonight's public hearing. In the hopes that I can complete this email prior to the close of the meeting, here are a few thoughts.

The draft ordinance is much clearer than previous iterations and I thank the Planning Board for such thoughtful consideration to date.

I believe the definitions could be more carefully tied to the specific sections of the ordinance as the current labels are not completely consistent.

It should be made clear(er) that mixed use (residential and commercial) is allowed under both single family / duplex residential systems and Enterprise solar systems (if that is the case), and that in case of Enterprise Systems that energy generated can be used by both onsite and offsite buildings or uses.

It is unclear why the roadways listed under 6d are prioritized, and not others, or whether certain criteria are used that would or could allow other roadways to be added. I am concerned the lack of criteria may encourage residents to advocate for additional inclusions.

The exemption for small, non-grid tied systems should be added to section 7a.

Language such as “limited accessory equipment “ in the definition of roof or building-mounted systems, “not practical” in section 5e, and “buffered” in 5d are vague.

Section 5b regarding nameplate capacity and annual onsite requirements is confusing, unnecessary and potentially discouraging to those who wish to install solar systems.

Limits on the size of systems should include an indication of the size of solar thermal systems, which are not measured in kW.

The decommissioning requirements and expectations of the Town should be made clearer or removed.

Thank you.

Mary Downes

Chair, Durham Energy Committee

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