

September 12, 2018

Dear Members of the Durham Planning Board,

We appreciate all the work and thought the Planning Board has put into revising the proposed Solar Ordinance. There are many improvements, with many of what we considered to be the unreasonable items originally proposed being removed. We thank you for listening to our concerns.

Within the revised draft solar ordinance, we ask that you revisit the following items:

1. Our understanding is that freestanding systems shall be placed no closer to the road than the front face of the house if under 10 feet tall and no closer than the back face of the house for those over 10 ft. While these regulations may be adequate for many properties, they do not adequately address circumstances in which historic homes sit close to the road. This is particularly problematic along Designated Scenic Roads and/or our Gateways. Placement of freestanding systems for those properties should have to meet an additional setback and/or screening requirements so that freestanding systems are not so visible from the road. This is particularly an issue where properties have extensive side yards (i.e. open fields or lawns that stretch along the road) that create a scenic vista, as is the case in some of our more rural areas of town.
2. In instances where freestanding solar systems will be installed in fields that are visible from the road, whether on a parcel that contains buildings or not, we ask that you consider a graduated setback requirement that considers the height of the system relative to the distance from the road. The taller the system, the further back from the road it should be so as to mitigate its visual impact. We also ask that systems installed in fields be screened from the road. This will be more easily accomplished the further back the system is placed.
3. Solar carports that are attached to homes should rightly be classified as building-mounted systems; carports that are not attached to homes or other existing structures should be classified as "freestanding systems" to accurately reflect their circumstance. This distinction will avoid misuse of carport installations to skirt regulations for freestanding systems. (Note: There is little visual distinction between a carport mounted on two poles and a freestanding device mounted on one or two poles.)
4. Finally, we understand that Enterprise Systems are large, commercial systems in which energy is generated for off-site use. Given the tremendous potential in terms of scale, we ask that as commercial enterprises, "Enterprise Systems" not be permitted in our Residential Zones (RA, RB, RC, & R). They should be permitted *by Conditional Use only* in our Research-Industrial Zones, many of which exist along our gateways.

As you revisit these items, please keep in mind that our Future Land Use Chapter, approved by the Planning Board last January, states:

- "The Durham community deeply values aesthetics and the character of the landscape."
- "When asked about what they love about Durham and what they hope for its future, Durham residents overwhelmingly spoke about the town's character and appearance."
- "The community places high value on Durham's natural beauty and residents consider the viewscapes along major transportation corridors to be important gateways."

Respectfully Submitted,

Name	Address
1. Diana Carroll	54 Canney Road
2. John E. Carroll	54 Canney Road
3. Ree Katrak	565 Bay Road
4. Firoze Katrak	565 Bay Road
5. Dudley Dudley	25 Woodman Road
6. Beth Olshansky	122 Packers Falls Road
7. Linda Tatarczuch	5 Fitts Farm Drive
8. Phil Albright	172 Packers Falls Road
9. Sarah Sherman	179 Packers Falls Road
10. Jamie Calderwood	179 Packers Falls Road
11. Victor Lapkowicz	152 Packers Falls Road
12. Kathryn Lapkowicz	153 Packers Falls Road
13. Raymond Goodman	21 Riverview Road
14. Helen Goodman	21 Riverview Road
15. Joan Drapeau	4 Sullivan Falls Road
16. William Drapeau	4 Sullivan Falls Road
17. Nancy Webb	23 Woodridge Road
18. Ernie Nichols	23 Woodridge Road
19. Lynn Holmes	10 Meserve Road
20. Jessie McKone	35 Dover Road
21. Roberta Stanhope	53 Bucks Hill Rd
22. Gwendolyn Howard	5 Bayview Road
23. Mary Alice Schatzle	5 Bayview Road
24. Sylvia Foster	24 Woodridge Road
25. Carolyn Puffer	6 Watson Road
26. Ronald Ablowich	253 Packers Falls Road
27. Ann Ablowich	253 Packers Falls Road
28. Phyllis Heilbronner	53 Mill Pond Road
29. Anne Knight	19 Perley Lane
30. Lewis Knight	19 Perley Lane

31. James Jelmsberg	29 Park Court
32. Johanne Jelmsberg	29 Park Court
33. Morgan Dudley	193 Packers Falls Road
34. Ted Naughton	193 Packers Falls Road
35. Doris Irwin	4 Moharinet Way
36. Robert Harter	247 Packers Falls Road
37. Nancy Harter	247 Packers Falls Road
38. David Williams	144 Packers Falls Road
39. Joyce Williams	144 Packers Falls Road
40. Robert Braile	6 Falls Way
41. Pamela Faltin	7 Constable Road
42. Gary Faltin	7 Constable Road
43. Linda Seiler	199 Packer's Falls Road
44. David Seiler	199 Packer's Falls Road
45. Holly Harris	154 Packers Falls Road
46. Vladimir Harris	154 Packers Falls Road
47. Janet Vrettos	14 Little John Road
48. Nancy Aldrich	12 Sullivan Falls Rd
49. Peter Stanhope	37 Dover Road
50. Suzanne Corbett	5 Falls Way
51. Lisa Brady	8 Constable Road
52. Janet Mackie	180 Piscataqua Road
53. Sandy MacLean	180 Piscataqua Road