

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
MASSACHUSETTS

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John Matthews, Chair
Joseph Dolben
Judge Robert Howarth
Phillip Schneider
Mark Casey
Associate Member: Richard R. Green

**HAMPDEN PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES/MINNECHAUG SOLAR, LLC
Wednesday, May 28, 2014
Town House**

Approved 6/25/14

Mr. Matthews opened the Public Hearing at 7 PM and alerted Mr. Mahla of Minnechaug Solar, LLC the Hearing is being recorded by the HCC Buffer Committee Representative.

The Public Hearing was scheduled on the application of Minnechaug Solar, LLC (f/k/a Soltas Holdings, LLC) concerning the property located at 229 Somers Road, Hampden, MA, for a Special Permit as required under Sections 10.6 and 7.7 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaws to change to maximum size of the solar photovoltaic electric generating facility from 4 MW DC to 3.5 MW AC.

Members Present: John Matthews, Chair; Charlie Dolben, Judge Robert Howarth, Phillip Schneider and Mark Casey.

Introduction of Board Members: Mr. Matthews introduced the Planning Board members.

Statement of Authority: Mr. Mathews read the Statement of Authority.

Legal Notice: The Legal Notice was read by Mr. Matthews.

Reports from Other Agencies: The Tax Collector reported the account is current.

Applicant's Presentation/Board Questions: Mr. Mahla attended the hearing in the absence of Mr. Kirt Mayland both of Minnechaug Solar, LLC. Mr. Mahla explained to the board that in order to be compatible with National Grid, they need to convert the output from the solar panels from DC to AC power through a converter. Mr. Mahla explained the foot print of the project does not change. They will go through a simulation process to determine the optimum number of panels based on the orientation and the tilt of the panels. Mr. Dolben asked about a potential 15% loss going from AC to DC. Mr. Mahla explained there is a loss due to inverters and the expanse of the cabling which can add up.

Audience Questions/Comments: None.

Decision: Mr. Dolben made a motion to approve the amendment to the Special Permit as presented. Judge Howarth seconded the motion. Voting unanimously (5-0) to approve the Special Permit was: John Matthews, Chair; Judge Robert Howarth, Charlie Dolben, and Phillip Schneider and Mark Casey.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Submitted by: Joanne Fiore, Adm. Assistant