

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD PUBLIC HEARING

May 30, 2017

A public hearing regarding the adoption of a Local Law of the Town of Kirkwood for the year 2017 entitled “Solar Energy Systems Local Law” which would regulate solar energy systems, solar collections systems, and solar energy production facilities (solar farms), was held on May 30, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Gordon Kniffen presiding.

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Oliver Blaise III, Attorney
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch, Jr., DPW Commissioner
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Board Chairman
Duane Travis, ZBA Chairman
John Mastronardi, Engineer

Mr. Blaise explained that the solar committee worked on the Solar Energy Systems Local Law for the better part of the last year, it was discussed at the last Town Board meeting and a copy was provided to the Board at that time. According to the 239 comments received from Broome County today, they don’t have any major issues or concerns with the Law and the suggestions they do have are good ones and his recommendation, unless there are any significant issues that the Board or public has, is to proceed with adopting this Local Law and take the measures that the County suggested and work those in. He noted that a lot of the comments were referenced in the Comprehensive Plan, and the County wants to make sure that the Comprehensive Plan and the Solar Energy Local Law fit together in terms of how they reference things. He added that no comments were received from any of the municipal entities that received a copy of the Local Law. In response to Roy Tondeur, Mr. Blaise said this fits in with the Comprehensive Plan, noting that solar will be allowed in every district, but in certain residential areas a special permit has to be applied for through the Planning Board to make sure it fits, and if it’s in a commercial district there is a lot more oversight.

Hearing no additional comments, Supervisor Kniffen ordered the hearing closed at 6:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk