

**Town of Enfield**  
**Renewable Energy Advisory Committee**

**April 10, 2018 Meeting Summary**

In Attendance: Mike Carpenter, Marcus Gingerich, Art Godin, Jude Lemke, Mimi Mehaffey, Dan Walker

Not Present: Walt Smithers (on vacation)

At this meeting we compared NYSERDA's recently updated Model Solar Energy Local Law with our own draft Solar Law. Mimi and others had already compared the two versions and suggested possible additions and changes.

These included the addition of a provision in NYSERDA's law that before the issuance of a building permit, and every seven years thereafter, a large scale solar developer be required to show evidence of financial surety of 125% of the cost of decommissioning and removing the solar PV system (up from 100%), with this amount increasing automatically by 2% each of the six years between cost re-appraisals.

Dan made the case for the Town's requesting a cash escrow instead of a surety bond to meet this requirement, the latter being more difficult to acquire and administer. Our solar law allows the Town flexibility in determining what form of financial surety will be required of solar developers.

We discussed the importance of educating Enfield residence regarding the signing of leases with large scale solar developers, particularly with respect to the possibility of their becoming liable for decommissioning costs if their lease contract does not include sufficient protections to prevent this from happening. We may be able to get NYSERDA's legal help in addressing this concern, apparently available free of charge to Town's developing solar energy laws.

We broadened the law's Statement of Purpose and made a few other minor changes. Following the meeting Jude circulated an updated draft to the committee and we agreed via email that it was ready for submission to the Town Board.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tues, 4/24, 7-9 PM at the Enfield Community Building. Cornell professor Francis Vanek may join us for the first portion of this meeting to discuss the possibilities of harnessing hydropower as a renewable source of energy for Enfield.

-Summary submitted by Art Godin.