

TOWN OF YORKTOWN

CONSERVATION BOARD

Town of Yorktown Town Hall, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598, Phone (914) 962-5722

MEMORANDUM

To: Town Board

From: Yorktown Conservation Board

Date: February 21, 2024

Re: **Large Scale Solar Farm
Moratorium**

The Conservation Board is in favor of a moratorium on Large Scale Solar Farms, to permit the board to reassess this law in light of our experience in reviewing proposals under the current law. Since the adoption of the Large Scale Solar Farm law the Conservation Board has consistently recommended that these industrial projects be limited to already disturbed parcels, such as abandoned farm fields, with proper screening in order that the viewshed is not impacted. We further believe that whole-scale removal of acres of trees, to site these farms, poses significant environmental impacts to wildlife, watersheds, and increases the fragmentation of forested lands. These objectives should be considered in amending the law. In addition we support solar installations on large commercial rooftops, on parking lots – such as IBM, when proper screening is incorporated.

We recommend that the Town Board refer to *How To Solar Now* a Scenic Hudson publication that deals with these issues in the Hudson Valley. Their *strategy for siting solar includes maximizing solar energy system deployment while avoiding and minimizing potential conflicts with other municipal goals, such as the protection and preservation of:*

agricultural soils and productive farmland

forested areas and wildlife habitat

wetlands, waterways and water quality

historic resources

designated public scenic resources

community character

We are looking forward to participating in the review of the law.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Bock

For the Conservation Board