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City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2024
7:00 PM

Councilor Pamela Gilday called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Councilor Pamela Gilday led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, Councilor Nicholas Wheeler, Councilor Owen Corcoran, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Jessica Redfern.

Also present: City Clerk Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk Jess Manning, Mayor's Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, National Grid representatives Dave Boucher, Jose Jaime, and Joseph Prow.

President Scott Mandeville was absent

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Minutes for approval: None at this time  
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Mayoral Appointments-

Councilor Rinaldi made a motion to suspend the rules and take 2024-101 through 2024-103 out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed 7-1.

Councilor Wheeler moved to suspend rule 5D. The motion was seconded by Councilor Corcoran and passed 7-1

2024-101 Reappointment of Sheryl Wright to the position of Interim Chief Financial Officer for a term to expire November 18, 2024.

Councilor Corcoran offered a motion to approve. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed 8-0.

2024-102 Appointment of Wayne Griffith to the position of member of the Amesbury Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed 8-0

2024-103 Appointment of Ronald Wiedemann to the position of member of the Amesbury Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners for a term to expire February 29, 2028.

- **Ronald Wiedeman spoke on his appointment.**

- Councilor Wheeler asked Ann Marie Casey what the state law is regarding appointment of Housing Authority members.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed 8-0.

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Licenses and Permits

Councilor Gilday read the license list into the record.

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the monthly list of licenses for July 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed 8-0**

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Correspondence

President/Vice President Communications:

- Councilor Gilday announced that the City Hall has new hours. The Councilor also announced that the City Council will be taking a vacation in August, which extends to subcommittees.

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- Mayor's Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey spoke to the memo (donations under 5000), mentioning that these are generally done on a quarterly basis.
- Councilor Stanganelli Asked if anything on the memo that does not have a check number is cash. Ann Marie replied that she can't speak to that, but not necessarily.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked the Friends of the Council on Aging for their prodigious fundraising efforts. He also noted that his mother is on the board of the Friends of the COA. He also thanked the Ryan Johnson Mem Foundation for their donation.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated for the record that \$18,974 is total in donations the city has received.

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- Councilor Stanganelli said Budget & Finance did not meet this month as nothing was referred, and that their next mtg will be in Sept.
- Councilor Gilday stated that Ordinance & Administration met July 15 and discussed the CPA Committee, which will be up for second hearing tonight. Other bills were extended into September.
- Councilor Corcoran shared that Planning & Development last met on June 12, and did not meet this month as they are waiting on the Planning Board to meet on referred bills.
- Councilor Redfern announced that Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee is meeting tomorrow (July 24).
- Councilor Rinaldi announced that the Energy Committee met July 13, took next step forward authorizing power partners, contracted with power supplier for aggregated power. More info will be put out in August and those eligible for the new power plan will be getting a flyer in mail describing what they need to do. Residents will only be eligible if connected to National Grid, and the program is starting in October.
- Councilor Wheeler reported that the Amesbury Elementary School Building Committee last meeting in June was cancelled due to Amesbury Days, next meeting is Thursday (July 25) handling commissioning items, appropriations, etc.
- Councilor Frederique shared Whittier Task Force info, nothing new has come up yet. The last mtg was on June 26, spoke on having 3 subcommittees to have more substantive conversations.

These smaller meetings would be held though July-Aug, with the next meeting of the whole Whittier Task Force is Sept 24. Mayor of Haverhill has no desire to amend current agreement.

- Councilor Rinaldi reported that he missed the last Chamber of Commerce meeting as he was out of town.
- Councilor Hogg reported that the Disposition Committee last met July 18, spoke on reviewing environmental reports. Next meeting is August 22, 5PM
- Councilor Stanganelli Shared that the Affordable Housing Trust Last met on July 10 and received update from Nick Cracknell. The trust currently has a \$150,000 balance, with the trust receiving \$30,000 for each unit sold at the 130 Market St Complex (potentially \$300,000 total). Present 118 unit gap between state housing inventory, and are currently having issues with the CDBG Grant.
- Councilor Wheeler: Question to Councilor Frederique – Previous issue was lack of communication between Whittier reps to Council reps. Could we invite them to update Council in September or October. Would quarterly updates be possible?

Public Comment

- Will Courtney (101 Whitehall Road) Spoke as Director of Communications for Our Neighbor's Table on the topic of food security in Amesbury.
- Krystine Hetel (3 Alnette Rd, Merrimac) Spoke about the solar field and wants to ensure it maintains the water quality of the lake.
- Edward Silva (45 Lake Attitash Rd) Spoke disapprovingly about the proposed solar farm removing trees, wanting it to stay in the current Industrial District.
- Jeff Tucker (44 Birchmeadow Rd) 2024-096 Spoke in opposition to the project, stating that communication to abutters has been poor.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Corcoran thanked those who came up for comment, spoke to his support for referring to committees, much discussion takes place there and nothing will be set in stone by referring it tonight.
- Councilor Gilday mentioned responses to public comment do not mean agreement/disagreement.
- Councilor Redfern introduced herself as Councilor from District 5, where the proposed solar farm is to be installed. Residents have a lot of questions, how close structures are to residents' homes, stormwater discharge on lake, tree removal, etc. Supports sending to committees so CC can really start to dig in and discuss.
- Councilor Stanganelli: Thanked all for coming. And noted that committee level meetings can have more free flow and an opportunity to listen as these issues are debated. Councilor Stanganelli encouraged residents to listen to where the bills are referred. The Councilor stressed that this is a proposed *zoning change*. It allows any company to build in the area. The City Council does not officially know who is going to be the company.
- Councilor Wheeler provided additional information to Councilor Stanganelli's response, specifying that Zoning Changes typically go to at least 3 subcommittees: Planning Board, O&A, P&D.

Public Hearings

2024-089 Pole Hearing - Poplar Street Extension

National Grid representative Dave Boucher summarized the proposed project.

Councilor Pamela Gilday Opened the Public Hearing on 2024-089 @7:58 PM

- Councilor Gilday mentioned Joe Buckley DPW has no concerns with pole, asked that National Grid and Verizon confirm that it does not interfere with other utilities in City right of way.
- Councilor Hogg asked if abutters were notified.

- Councilor Wheeler asked Boucher if 39 Poplar Street Ext. lines are being cut back or lines will be crossing. Boucher replied that National Grid will not be touching anything already existing. Guide wires on P7, assuming they will be replaced? If not needed, they will be removed. DPW Dir memo: Will there be issues maintaining 3ft from end of pavement.
- Ulaine Walter (8 California Lane) House abuts. Will work cause extra traffic or wires cause interference. Dave Boucher said trees between poles will be trimmed. Cannot see significant disruption to traffic for an extended time. Poles usually up in a day. Limbs will be addressed if extensive.

Councilor Wheeler offered motion to approve 2024-089 with stipulation that National Grid notify Dig Safe per DPW request and locate pole no less than 36 inches from the edge of the pavement. Councilor Anthony Rinaldi seconded and passed unanimously via roll call vote (8-0)

Councilor Pamela Gilday Closed the public hearing on 2024-089 at 8:10PM

2024-090 Pole Hearing - Main St and Merrimack Street

Councilor Gilday opened the Public Hearing on 2024-090 at 8:10PM.

Joseph Prow summarized the proposed project.

- Councilor Wheeler asked if this needs to be reviewed by Conservation Commission, and if National Grid has minimum distance between poles? Mr. Prow answered that the distance is typically 150ft. The issue here is all poles have devices on them, and National Grid cannot fit this device on other poles. Could potentially be moved, not as part of this project. Right of way varies widely.
- Anne Ferguson (1 River Court) noted that maps are not accurate, as it appears that the pole is being put in Alliance Park parking lot, and she does not want interference with parking. Other areas on the map do not appear to be accurate.
- Joseph Prow stated that the new pole will not be interfering with parking spaces and will be in line with poles 68 & 69.
- Councilor Wheeler noted that one pole is near a property line, and received clarification that the new pole is not going to be to the left of that pole?
- Councilor Gilday asked for clarification that the pole will not be in the parking lot, which was confirmed by Joseph Prow.
- Councilor Wheeler noted that there is a small triangle of city-owned land right on water, and would ask National Grid to speak to the Conservation Commission prior to starting work.

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-090 with the stipulations that National Grid be required to notify Dig Safe and locate the pole no less than 36 inches from the edge of the pavement. Councilor Owen Corcoran seconded.

Councilor Gilday Closed the Public Hearing for 2024-090 at 8:22 PM.

Councilor Nick Wheeler offered a motion to amend the main motion to require National Grid to notify Conservation Commission prior to starting work. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michael Hogg and passed unanimously 8-0.

A roll call vote was held on the main motion, as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2024-091 Pole Hearing - Union St

Councilor Gilday opened the public hearing on 2024-091 at 8:24 PM

Mr. Boucher summarized the proposed project.

- Councilor Wheeler asked if the customer will bear the cost to replace the light on one of the poles. Mr. Boucher replied that the light will be transferred with the pole. Mr. Boucher also noted that there would be no way to get it 3ft from pavement.

Councilor Gilday closed the public hearing on 2024-091 8:29 PM

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler offered motion to approve 2024-091 with the stipulation that National Grid notify Dig Safe. Councilor Jessica Redfern seconded. Roll was called and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-092 Pole Hearing - 118 Market St and Auzman Street

Councilor Gilday opened the public hearing on 2024-092 at 8:30 PM.

Councilor Gilday read the memo from DPW.

Boucher summarized project 2024-092 and noted that it and 2024-093 are related. Andre Jaime also summarized the proposed project.

- Councilor Stanganelli asked a question on behalf of an abutter at 122 Market. Concerned about pole placement relative to her property line.
- Nicole & Tom Lloyd (115 Market Street) Confused as to where poles will specifically be located: at 117 or 118 Market Street. They are concerned with bright LED lights shining into their windows and wonder if blinders will be put on. Councilor Rinaldi replied that it is possible and encouraged them to inquire at DPW. Additionally, the Lloyds noted that the contact phone number given by National Grid is not working.
- Councilor Wheeler provided additional Context, according to map, 4 poles replaced and 1 new pole is being installed. Only 1 pole has a light.

Councilor Gilday closed the public hearing on 2024-092 at 8:43 PM

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler made a motion to approve 2024-092, with the stipulations that National Grid contact Dig Safe and locate the new pole no less than 36 inches from the edge of the pavement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi. Roll was called and passed unanimously, 8-0.

2024-093 Pole Hearing - 120 Market St and Auzman Street

Councilor Gilday opened the public hearing on 2024-093 at 8:44 PM.

Andre Jaime summarized the proposed project.

- Councilor Stanganelli reiterated the concern from a resident at 122 Market St about property lines and asked what the approximate distance is between the poles. Mr. Boucher answered that the

distance is 60ft & 50ft.

- Councilor Wheeler noted that there should be no problem locating poles 3 feet from pavement.

Councilor Gilday closed the public hearing on 2024-093 at 8:52 PM

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler made a motion to approve 2024-093 with the stipulations that National Grid notify Dig Safe and locate the pole no less than 36 from the edge of the pavement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michael Hogg. Roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2024-094 Pole Hearing - Oakland St

Councilor Gilday opened the public hearing on 2024-094 at 8:53 PM

Andre Jaime summarized the proposed project.

- Councilor Wheeler noted that there is no grass strip/curb, all asphalt. He hopes location is not much of an issue.

Councilor Gilday closed the public hearing on 2024-094 at 8:56 PM

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler made a motion to approve 2024-094 with the stipulations that National Grid notify Dig Safe and locate poles no less than 36 inches outside the street pavement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern. Roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-095 Pole Hearing - Highland St

Councilor Gilday opened the public hearing on 2024-095 at 8:57 PM.

Andre Jaime summarized the proposed project.

- Councilor Wheeler: Voiced issues about poles close to property lines 9:00 SEE TAPE
- Councilor Stanganelli inquired as to whether there are issues regarding deadlines. Mr. Jaime replied that the project is part of larger job to replace the substation by the Powwow River.
- Laura Mirandi (58 Highland St.) Hopes that National Grid will send more accurate maps. Ms. Mirandi also noted that the phone number for Joe Nicholetti is not working. She was concerned with poles located in front of her house. Mr. Boucher replied that inaccuracies on maps will be corrected in the future, and that National Grid wants to address resident concerns before meeting.
- Councilor Redfern voiced her concern about the number of inaccuracies and lack of a working phone number.

Councilor Gilday closed the public hearing on 2024-095 at 9:16 PM.

Councilor Anthony Rinaldi offered motion to approve 2024-095. The motion was seconded by Councilor Steve Stanganelli.

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler offered a motion to amend the main motion to include the stipulation that National Grid notify Dig Safe and locate pole no less than 36 inches from the edge of the pavement and the understanding that the new pole be placed roughly midway between poles. The motion was seconded by Councilor Steve Stanganelli and passed 8-0.

A roll call vote was held on the main motion, as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Pamela Gilday called for a short recess at 9:20 PM, resumed at 9:26 PM.

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Second Readings

Councilor Pamela Gilday summarized bills 2024-016 through 2024-022.

**2024-016** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by revising Rule 6G: Appeal – **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg, and Rinaldi Sponsors**

**2024-017** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by revising Rule 11-A Standing Committees. - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg, and Rinaldi Sponsors**

**2024-018** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules – Rule 5E: Order of Business - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg, and Rinaldi Sponsors**

**2024-019** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules – Rule 5B: Meeting Schedule - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg, and Rinaldi Sponsors**

**2024-020** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by adding Rule 5J: Attendance Relating to Public and Adjudicatory Hearings or Meetings - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg, and Rinaldi Sponsors**

**2024-021** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by adding Rule 5I: Remote Participation - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg, and Rinaldi Sponsor**

**2024-022** An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by revising Rule 6O: Objections and Postponement of Votes. - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**

**Councilor Anthony Rinaldi offered a motion to withdraw 2024-016 through 2024-022 without prejudice. The motion was seconded by Councilor Steve Stanganelli. and passed unanimously after roll call, 8-0.**

Councilor Steve Stanganelli noted for the record that these bills were worked on extensively with much discussion. Will note that he still believes changes to meeting schedule (2024-019) and remote participation (2024-021) and adjudicatory hearings (2024-020) should be made.

**A roll call vote was held on the main motion, which passed unanimously, 8-0.**

**2024-083** An Ordinance to establish a Community Preservation Committee -**Councilor Wheeler Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary into the record and read the positive recommendation from O&A.
- Councilor Wheeler elaborated on 2024-083 and the CPA adoption process.
- Councilor Rinaldi asked why Housing Trust member is not on the Committee. Councilor Wheeler responded by saying that the Housing Authority gets a seat instead of Housing Trust, and he is unsure if City Council can add other committees.
- Councilor Frederique voiced his opinion that Housing Trust fits the CPA more than the Housing Authority

**Councilor Gilday called for recess at 9:42 PM, returning at 9:45 PM.**

- Councilor Corcoran pointed out that Massachusetts General Law lists exactly who should be included in the CPA Committee, which includes the Housing Authority. Therefore, the City Council can add Housing Trust, but cannot replace Housing Authority member.

- Councilor Wheeler voiced his desire to get an opinion on potential changes from KP Law.
- City Clerk Jennifer Smith mentioned that an August meeting will be required to approve the election warrant.
- Councilor Hogg voiced his interpretation that the CPA Committee can have up to 4 additional at-large seats, but those cannot be elected officials.

**Councilor Nicholas Wheeler made a motion to approve 2024-083 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Owen Corcoran.**

- Councilor Stanganelli noted a possible amendment discussed with the administration. Begs point that we should have legal resources review proposed legislation. MGL Ch. 44B Sec 5 does beg the interpretation that City Council can add someone, presumably by deleting an at-large seat.
- Councilor Redfern asked if the City Council should approve with 2 residents instead of 4, then add members later?
- Councilor Hogg voiced his agreement with Councilor Redfern.
- Councilor Wheeler stated that it is possible. If that is the idea then this will need to be amended. The Councilor also asked Councilor Stanganelli if he had the written language of his proposed amendment.
- Councilor Stanganelli mentioned that he presented a written proposal for an amendment to

**Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to amend the main motion in section 12-7, which maintained a 9 member committee with 6 ex officio and 3 public members, including a Housing Trust member to serve an initial 1 year term with a 3-year term thereafter. Another amendment is to address typographical error in Section 12-7, Item 3, line 3 - “what ever reason” should be one compound word. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi. Roll called, motion fails 3-5 with Councilors Wheeler, Corcoran, Hogg, Redfern, and Gilday in opposition.**

- Councilor Wheeler summarized all the changes that would be required if the main motion was amended.

**Councilor Jessica Redfern made a motion to amend the main motion by removing 2 members of the public, thereby reducing committee size to 7, and removing section f(c) from Article III, Section 12-7. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michael Hogg. A roll call vote was held on the proposed amendment. The amendment passed, 5-2 with Councilor Nicholas Wheeler abstaining and Councilors Owen Corcoran and Steve Stanganelli voting against.**

**A roll call vote was held on the main motion, as amended. The motion passed after roll call vote 7-1 with Councilor Stanganelli voting against.**

#### First Readings

**2024-096** An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance expanding the Renewable Energy Development Overlay District (REDD) – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary.

**Councilor Owen Corcoran offered a motion to refer 2024-096 to the Planning Board, Planning & Development, and Ordinance and Administration with a second reading and public hearing on Sept 24, with the request for a presentation from the administration. Councilor Wheeler seconded.**

**Councilor Steve Stanganelli offered an amendment to the main motion to add Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee. The amendment was seconded by Councilor Owen Corcoran and passed 6-1 with an abstention from Councilor Nicholas Wheeler.**

- Councilor Redfern shared that she lives on Lake Attitash and has filed a form for appearance of Conflict of Interest.

**A vote was held on the main motion, as amended. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.**

**2024-097** An Order to accept easement- drainage and utilities at 130 Market Street - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary.

**Councilor Nicholas Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-097 to the Planning Board, Planning & Development, and Ordinance & Administration with a second reading on September 24. Councilor Owen Corcoran seconded.**

**Councilor Michael Hogg proposed an amendment to the main motion to request DPW Director Joe Buckley to appear at the second reading/public hearing. The amendment was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously, 8-0.**

**Councilor Nicholas Wheeler proposed an amendment to include a public hearing with the second reading on September 24. The amendment was seconded by Councilor Michael Hogg and passed 6-2.**

**A vote was held on the main motion, as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0.**

**2024-098** An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance to create an overlay in compliance with MBTA Communities Act - **Mayor Gove and Councilor Gilday Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary.

**Councilor Nicholas Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-098 to Ordinance and Administration, Planning and Development, and the Planning Board with a Public Hearing on Sept 24 and the request for a presentation from the administration. Councilor Owen Corcoran seconded.**

**Councilor Stanganelli offered an amendment to the main motion to refer 2024-098 to the Housing Trust. Councilor Michael Hogg seconded, and the amendment passed unanimously, 8-0.**

**Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to extend the meeting 15 min past 10:30 PM. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Michael Hogg and passed 7-1.**

**A vote was held on the main motion, as amended, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.**

**2024-099** An Ordinance to amend the Cannabis Retail License Limits – **Councilors Stanganelli and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary.

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to refer 2024-099 to the Ordinance & Administration Subcommittee, with a second reading on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the request for a presentation from the administration. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg.**

**Councilor Nicholas Wheeler offered an amendment by including the Planning Board and Planning and Development Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michael Hogg and passed 8-0.**

**A vote was held on the main motion, as amended. The motion passed, 7-0 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.**

**2024-100** A Resolution to support the transfer of the FY25 City Council training budget line (111-5320) dollars of \$1,420 to the FY25 City Clerk training budget line (161-5320)- **Councilors Gilday and Corcoran Sponsors**

- Councilor Pamela Gilday read the summary.

- Councilor Owen Corcoran provided background, saying that intent is to support recent Assistant City Clerk Hire.
- Councilor Nick Wheeler stated that he is not in favor of the resolution, while understanding the need for Clerk's office training, this money is used to attend Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference. With half of the Council changed over this session, this money needs to be used on their own training.

**Councilor Owen Corcoran moved to approve 2024-100 and amend that money should be transferred to Clerks office budget including language amendment. "transfer of additional funds for training for the City Clerk's Office." The motion was seconded by Councilor Nick Wheeler**

**Councilor Nick Wheeler offered a motion to table 2024-100 to the next scheduled City Council meeting on September 24, 2024. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Owen Corcoran and passed 7-1.**

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Adjourn

Councilor Steve Stanganelli offered a motion to adjourn at 10:45 PM. Councilor Nick Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed, 7-0-1

Respectfully Submitted,
Jess Manning

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Jose Jaime

Address: Washington Park Dr

City: Andover State MA Zip 01810

Home Phone () _____

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: New Electrical Poles Being installed

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

im A NATIONAL Grid Representative that WANTS to
Provide information on why we want to do this
Job. i would talk About Pole hearing For the following:
2024-092, 2024-093, 2024-094 and 2024-095.

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Jose A. Jaime

Date: 7/23/24

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Will Courtney
Address: 101 Whitehall Rd
City: Amesbury State MA Zip 01913
Home Phone (603) 485-9620

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: Food security in Amesbury

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

~~My employer is an~~
Director of Communications
Our Neighbor Table

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/23/24

I'm 3 kids @ APS.

1900 residents using our services

Reduced public SNAP

Seacoast Food Hub

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Krystine Hetel

Address: 3 Alnette Rd

City: Merrimac State MA Zip 01860

Home Phone (978) 384-8363

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: Zoning change for solar field

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

/

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Krystine Hetel Date: 1/23/2024

Current Pres Lake Attitash Assn
concerned about quality of lake

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Edward Silva

Address: 45 Lake Attitash Rd

City: Danversbury State MA Zip 01913

Home Phone (603) 247-7445

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: Solar Farm Land Amendment

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

N/A

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature:  Date: 7/23/24

Tree removal concern

Runoff concern

would like to see it stay
in industrial

detrimental effect on habitat

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: JEFF TUCKER

Address: 44 BIRCHMEADOW RD

City: AMESBURG State MA Zip 01913

Home Phone (978) 239-9755

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: Bill 2024-096 Solar Farm

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

I AM AN ABUTTER TO PROPERTY

Parcel 44-4

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Jeff Tucker Date: July 23 2024

Request he
tabled!

Request a city w/

abutter
submit letter →

Rambell runoff

Lake Attitash watershed

The Ames watershed

with the
City Council

sent to Councilors on
Aug 18 2023

public prez
May 16 2023 at
Senior Ctr

but
years
nothing
arrived
to see

Tech Review
Dec mtg

June 23 mtg
Lakes & Watersheds

2024-089

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

poplar

Name: Ulaire Walter

Address: 8 California lane

City: Amesbury State Me Zip 01913

Home Phone (781) 521-6619

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: Pole Housing Extensions

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

I Live off of auzman Street. how will
these pole in convence the streets off of
This work. Will this cause any intul straction
Damage on the streets. I

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Ulaire Walter Date: 7/23/24

all new seacies

Addendum N

2024-090

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Anne Ferguson

Address: 1 River Ct

City: Amesbury State MA Zip 01913

Home Phone 978 270-1252

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: pole hearing 2024-090

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

Amesbury Improvement Assn president
owns 347 & 349 Main St
Advance Park
owns 349 Pole St.

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Anne R Ferguson Date: 7/23/24

abutter AIA
Concerned about

any impact on the parking lot
new pole will be

Addendum N

2024-092

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Nicole + Tom Lloyd

Address: 115 Market St

City: Amesbury State MA Zip 01913

Home Phone 978 837 8172

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: poles on Market St.

Quest about more lights + exactly what goes
Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may
have with this matter: on poles

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: N. Lloyd Date: 7.23.24

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

Laura
Mirandi

2024-095

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Laura Mirandi

Address: 58 Highland St.

City: Amesbury State MA Zip 01913

Home Phone (508) 451-8973

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: National Grid Pole

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

Proposed pole will go in my front yard.

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Laura Mirandi Date: 7/23/24



PO Box 503, Amesbury, MA 01913

MEMORANDUM

To: Amesbury City Council
From: Lake Attitash Association – Board of Directors
Re: Request for Rezoning for Proposed Syncarpha Solar Farm
Date: July 23, 2024

The Lake Attitash Association's primary mission is to protect water quality in Lake Attitash. This memorandum is sent to express the Association concerns about the solar project proposed to be built within the Lake Attitash and Meadowbrook Pond watershed. Lake Attitash is a secondary water supply for the City of Amesbury.

Site: The proposed solar farm would be built on a hill currently zoned for residential use between Meadowbrook Pond and Lake Attitash.

Stormwater run-off: The project would require clearing 35 acres of woodland, which potentially will create significant changes in stormwater run-off from the site. Trees act like enormous sponges absorbing large amounts of water and absorbing nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) from the soil before they reach nearby surface water bodies. A single mature evergreen tree can intercept more than 4,000 gallons per year.

Cyanobacteria and phosphorus: Stormwater run-off brings phosphorus and other nutrients into surface water bodies, which in turn feed harmful algal blooms.

Lake Attitash has a history of recurring toxic cyanobacteria blooms, which are a serious health threat to people and animals. The Lake Attitash Association, the MA Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Amesbury and the Town of Merrimac have invested significant funding and working hours over many years to limit and filter stormwater run-off entering Lake Attitash. A **summary of recent grant-funded projects** is provided below. These projects have reduced the nutrients that flow into Lake Attitash with stormwater run-off and have helped to contain the accumulation of phosphorus already in the lake sediment with the most recent \$600,000 alum treatment completed in 2020.

LAA MEMORANDUM TO AMESBURY CITY COUNCIL Re: Syncarpha Solar Project

July 23, 2024

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Any increase in stormwater run-off has the potential to harm the lake by increasing the nutrient and sediment load and contributing to algal blooms. **We must ensure that there is no increase in the flow of stormwater and nutrient run-off into Lake Attitash from this project.**

The Lake Attitash Association strongly recommends that the City of Amesbury take the following steps to protect its water supply and Lake Attitash.

1. Syncarpha must be required to fully delineate wetland resources and buffer zones on the project site to ensure full compliance with applicable standards established by MassDEP and implemented by the Amesbury Conservation Commission.
2. The project site also lies within Zone A and Zone B surface water protection area. The City should require an independent peer review of the project by a qualified civil engineer familiar with proper stormwater management system design and operation.
3. We ask that the City require pre-construction stormwater testing by an independent consultant so a baseline can be established for future monitoring of the impact of stormwater run-off into Lake Attitash from this project. Syncarpha has reported that it will create a stormwater mitigation system that meets all state and local regulations and is **not** required to conduct testing to determine its effectiveness or provide ongoing monitoring and maintenance. If the stormwater mitigation plan is not considered adequate Syncarpha should be required to make the necessary changes.
4. Syncarpha should be required to prepare a robust Operation and Maintenance Plan for any stormwater management system.
5. Syncarpha should be required to conduct independent water quality testing every year to assess the continued effectiveness of the mitigation system.

It is requested that the above conditions be incorporated into any zoning change and any final approval documents issued by any boards or commissions in the City of Amesbury.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

LAA MEMORANDUM TO AMESBURY CITY COUNCIL Re: Syncarpha Solar Project

July 23, 2024

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Summary of Recent Grant-Funded Projects designed to improve water quality in Lake Attitash which provides back up water supply for the City of Amesbury.

2002 The Lake and Pond Demonstration Grant - MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Installations to minimize sediment and maximize runoff infiltration to groundwater, storm drain infrastructure, wetland restoration, catch basins.

Project Cost: \$362,750

- Amesbury: \$58,600 in kind, \$8,750 cash
- Camp Bauercresc \$3,500 in kind
- Merrimac: \$8,000 in kind, \$4,000 cash
- LAA: \$6,000 in kind, \$2,250 cash
- State funds \$271,650

2002-2005 MADEP s.319 Grant - Amesbury

Implementation of structural and non-structural storm water management systems:

Project Cost: \$163,675

- US EPA/MA DEP: 98,205 cash
- City of Amesbury: \$65,470 cash & in kind

2011-2014 MADEP s.319 Grant: \$234,990 – Merrimac

Installation of additional storm water controls in Merrimac to combat continued algal blooms and substantially reduce cyanobacteria levels.

Project Cost: \$234,990

- MADEP: \$136,040
- Town of Merrimac: \$98,950 all in-kind

2012 Whole lake Invasive Weed Treatment & Continuous Efforts: \$70,000+

Whole lake milfoil herbicide treatment with Sonar/Fluoridone

Project Cost: \$69,626

- City of Amesbury: \$45,000 cash
- Town of Merrimac: \$11,140 cash + \$8,860 for ongoing water quality expenses
- LAA: \$13,486

2017-2020 MADEP s.319 Grant (Alum Treatment): \$594,437

Application of Alum treatment to significantly reduce harmful algal blooms for 15+ years.

Treatment completed in two alum applications in 2019 & 2020 and extensive community education program.

Project Cost: \$400,671

- USEPA: 240,402.67
- City of Amesbury: \$85,234
- Town of Merrimac: \$41,912
- LAA: \$33,122

2023 – City of Amesbury and LAA are putting filters into 6 key storm drains along the eastern shore of Lake Attitash, designed to absorb phosphorus before it gets into the lake. LAA will conduct testing to determine effectiveness.

- City of Amesbury: \$10,000

BTW - You can mention that I could not be present because I have covid!!

My name is Veronica Wolfe. I have been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Lake Attitash Association for over 15 years.

LAA cares about the water quality of the lake and its significance to Amesbury's drinking water supply. Lake Attitash is regularly drawn down during dry summers to boost Amesbury's water supply.

LAA has worked for decades to improve the health of Lake Attitash for the residents on the lake and those who access the lake from outside the City. For years, the lake was plagued by hazardous algae blooms. The Association, along with Merrimac and Amesbury, have procured multiple State and Federal grants to reduce the flow of phosphorus into the lake and improve stormwater management in both communities. The result is significant improvement in water quality in Lake Attitash.

The proposed zoning amendments that you are considering would facilitate construction of a solar project that clear cuts the forest on land central to the Water Resources Protection District that slopes directly to the Back River, Lake Attitash and Meadowbrook Pond. Clear cutting forest for solar facilities is discouraged by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies that advocate for expansion of renewable energy supplies. It is hard to imagine a worse location for the City to expand the amount of solar energy being produced in the City.

LAA urges the City Council to retract this specific zoning amendment bill and work with other agencies in the City to conduct a comprehensive review of where else in the City solar facilities ^{could} can be located so the City does not sacrifice the protections that the Water Resources Protection District provides for water quality in Lake Attitash, Meadowbrook Pond, and the Back River, and for the City's water supply. It is worth the additional time and public process to get this right.



Jeff Tucker <bikerjefft@gmail.com>

Neighborhood Response to Syncarpha LLC Proposed (Planning Board & City Council) Solar Installation Project at 0 Meadowbrook Rd Amesbury MA 01913

Jeff Tucker <jeff-tucker@comcast.net>

To: Kassandra Gove Mayor <govek@amesburyma.gov>, Jonathan Hickok District 1 <councilorhickok@amesburyma.gov>, "Anthony S. Rinaldi District 2" <councilorrinaldi@amesburyma.gov>, <councilordeschenes@amesburyma.gov>, Nicholas Wheeler District 4 <councilorwheeler@amesburyma.gov>, Peter Frey District 5 <councilorfrey@amesburyma.gov>, Michael Hogg District 6 At Large <councilorlennon@amesburyma.gov>, Scott Mandeville At Large <councilormandeville@amesburyma.gov>, Steve Stanganelli At Large <councilorstanganelli@amesburyma.gov>, Nij <jainn@amesburyma.gov>, Becky Frey Planning Board Community Dev Coordinator <freyb@amesburyma.gov>

Cc: Linda Perrott <lindaperrott@comcast.net>

Bcc: Dawne Shand <shand@mahouse.gov>, Adrienne Ramos <ramos@mahouse.gov>, Justin Curtis <curtis@masenate.gov>, Kassy Pearl <pearlk@amesburyma.gov>, Nick Cracknell <cracknelln@amesburyma.gov>, J Haggstrom <haggstroma@amesburyma.gov>, Jennifer Smith <smithj@amesburyma.gov>, Jess Manning <manningj@amesburyma.gov>, Marisa Batista <batistam@amesburyma.gov>, Donn <caswelld@amesburyma.gov>, Craig Bailey <baileyc@amesburyma.gov>, James Nolan <nolanj@amesburyma.gov>, David Frick Planning Board <david.g.frick@gmail.com>

[Note: this email is being sent on behalf of Linda Perrott <lindaperrott@comcast.net> due to a temporary technical problem, and all responses and replies should be sent to Linda Perrott.]

As you probably know, a New York-based venture capital company known as Syncarpha is planning on leasing a 35-acre private parcel of land in Amesbury (between Lake Attitash and IV Lake Attitash neighbors of the proposed site, we have identified several concerns regarding the project. Our sincere request is that these concerns be carefully addressed by the City of

The Lake Attitash Association (LAA) submitted a letter to the Amesbury Planning Board on June 8, 2023, detailing some of their efforts over the past several decades in restoring the con Syncarpha to clear 35 acres of trees in order to install solar panels may cause Lake Attitash to no longer be protected from the toxic effects of storm water runoff. We strongly endorse t that the City of Amesbury closely follow those written recommendations.

In addition to the points raised by the LAA, we have the following concerns:

- Environmental impact of removing 35 acres (~1.5 million square feet) of trees - instead of using the many acres of previously cleared land within the Vynorius property.
 - **Runoff.** Various studies have demonstrated the importance of trees in minimizing runoff and increasing soil infiltration. A single deciduous tree can intercept over 500 galls intercepting over 4,000 gallons a year.
 - **Soil infiltration.** Watershed studies have shown that the soil infiltration rate decreases from 12.4 in/hr to 4.4 in/hr when a site is converted from forest to suburban turf (K: forested areas to cropped or grazed pasture areas (Bharati et al., 2002). Additionally, Lake Attitash drains into the Meadowbrook, a 3-4' average depth water body that is ci nutrient inputs may further threaten the fish, frogs, turtles, and any wildlife that depend upon this waterway's health.
 - **Pollutant removal.** Trees are adept at removing pollutants from soil and water. In one study, a single maple tree was shown to remove 60 mg of cadmium, 140 mg of chlor single growing season (Coder, 1996). Another study showed that for every 1% increase in deforestation, access to clean drinking water decreases by 0.93% (Mapulanga and
 - **Migratory bird nesting.** Amesbury has an inventory of 280 species, including eagles, whippoorwills, long eared owls, loons, falcons, and bobolinks. A subset of these specie endangered species.
 - **Heat Island.** Removal of existing trees, and the radiant heat generated from the solar panels, leads to significant possibility of heat island creation. In approximate terms, t averages 5-10-degrees F cooler than temperatures on Interstate 495. This heat increase can lead to significant harm to persons and wildlife, including the fish and animals
 - **Visual blight & degradation of environs.** Lake Attitash is currently surrounded by a 360-degree tree line. This landscape is broken up only by single-family, detached home powerlines, etc.) intruding on the landscape. Installing panels on a 60' hill will make them visible to the Lake neighborhoods, and the reflection/glint of the solar panels is z
 - **Homeowner impact.** Solar farms have been shown to have a detrimental effect on property valuations (Elmallah, 2023). Furthermore, increased runoff and sediment in La residents located on/near the waterways. Currently, the area surrounding the lake is not categorized as a FEMA flood zone. If this status were to change, it could result in t current residents. This could also increase erosion for the areas affected by the flooding, causing destruction of homes and of the shoreline itself.
- Solar panels and environmental impact
 - **Solar panel efficiency degradation.** According to publicly available data, energy production from each panel drops to 97.5% after 1 year, drops to 90% within 10 years, and
 - **Solar panel composition.** Solar panels include sandwiched layers that include Lead, Cadmium, Silver, Tin and many other materials - all reliant on the integrity of a glass & weather events. Even with no damage, there is the potential for heavy metals, especially lead, to leach into the ground and, by extension, into the surrounding waterways 2021). By the year 2050, the International Renewable Energy Agency projects, up to 78 million metric tons of solar panels will have reached their end of life.
 - **DC-to-AC Power conversion & storage equipment.** This ancillary equipment to be installed on concrete pad - power switchgear, battery array, etc. must be protected from by the equipment, it must be installed as far as possible from homes.
- Zoning ordinances
 - **Solar parks restricted to non-residential-zoned areas.** The proposed site is zoned as "Residence 80". Amesbury proudly already has 2 large solar farms/parks, and both are
 - City of Amesbury & Kearsarge Energy, a 4.5MwDC, 11,376 panel, 30 acre site at 23 South Martin Road (between South Hunt, Route 150 Pond View Ave) over the cap
 - MillerBrosSolar, a 5.9MwDC, 17,623 panel, 117 acre site on South Hunt Rd, over the capped Waste Management landfill opened in December 2016
 - **Roadway Primary/Secondary Access.** According to Amesbury Zoning Bylaws Section XIV Water Resources Protection District (Adopted 2014 - Zone A Section c), no new ro boundary of the bank of tributaries and associated wetland resource areas. The proposed roadway (Robert Nihan's property at 25 Birchmeadow Rd) is approximately 159' proposed roadway also lacks the necessary setbacks, making it too close to existing neighbors.

As a result of these concerns, we would like to request, at minimum:

- An independent (conducted by a 3rd party - not Syncarpha or Syncarpha associated) stormwater runoff study to evaluate the current environment and impact of deforestation or residential wells in Amesbury, town wells in Merrimack, and the Arch Brook under Kimball Road.
- A survey of the wildlife and plant populations, and an inventory of trees within the proposed clearance area
- An in-person meeting with the Planning Board and/or Zoning Board to address our concerns

Thank you,

Signed

all from The Birches Neighborhood

Ian & Lauren Monteith

Earl & Kathy Richards

Lynsey & Nathan Evans

Rebecca Huston

Pam Shaw

Linda Perrott

Jeff Tucker

Gil Clothey

Charles B & Rochelle Wright

Shirley Wright

Karen Hefler

Bree Morlock

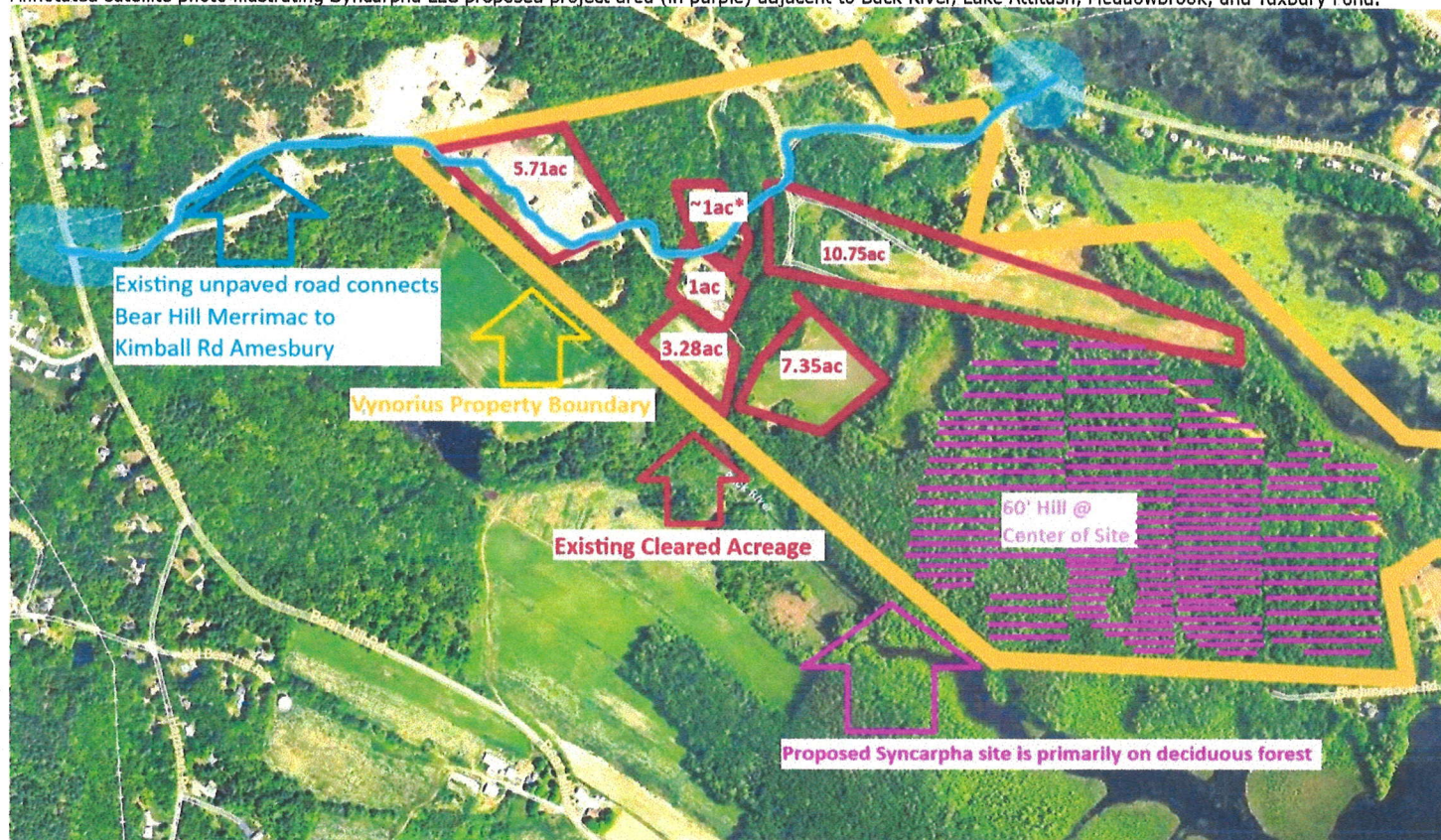
Allen Hatfield

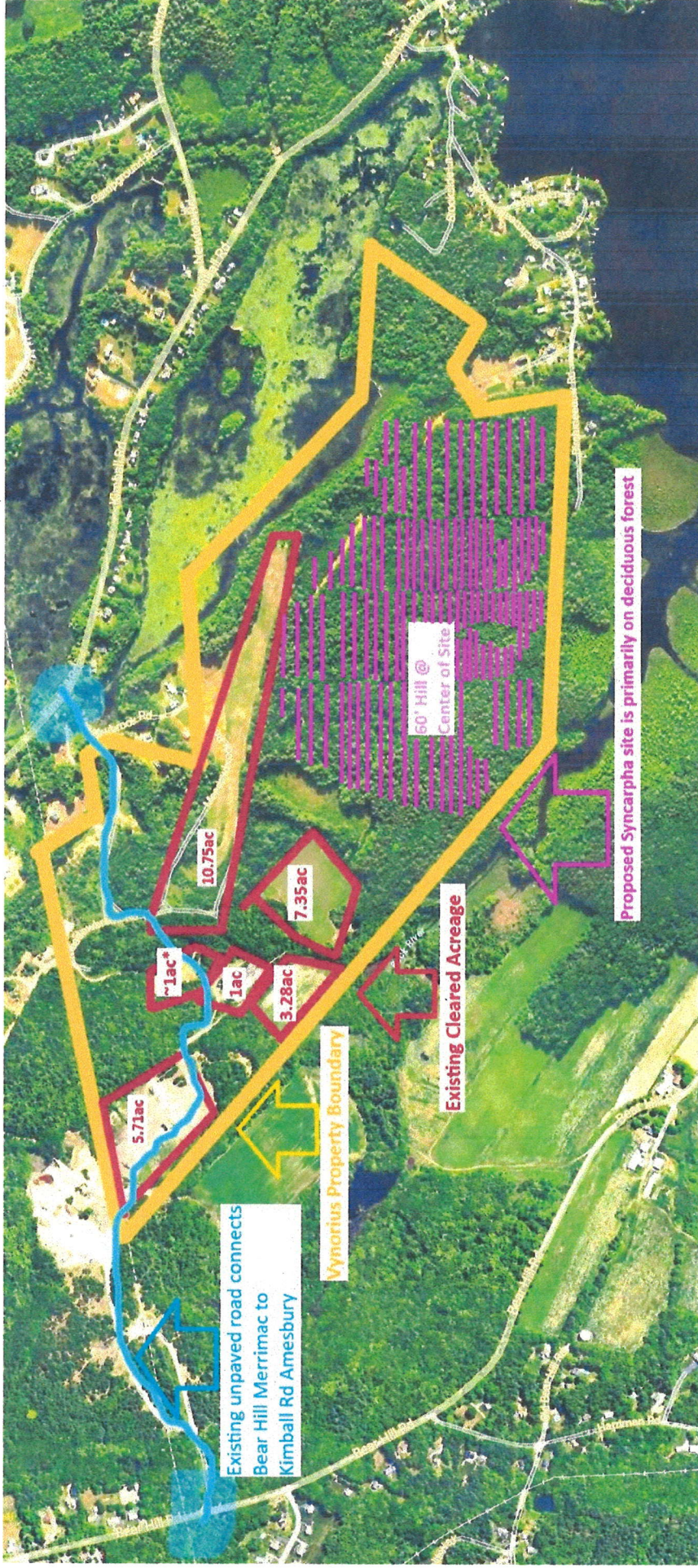
Kristen Felt

Adam Mitchell
Sergey & Yelena Lysenko

from the West Shore Rd, Merrimac neighborhood
Veronica & Mark Wolfe

Annotated satellite photo illustrating Syncarpha LLC proposed project area (in purple) adjacent to Back River, Lake Attitash, Meadowbrook, and Tuxbury Pond.





BARBARA HAMER 2A LAKE ATTITASH RD

I understand and support the drive for Solar EVEN though Solar like any other energy source is not perfect. But since it's not perfect, I will bring up issues that need to be considered when deciding where to allow large-scale solar farms to be built in our city.

The proposed site has 3 major issues: First and foremost, it's in our watershed. Second, the site is heavily wooded and Third it's on a hill.

Once the trees are removed, uncontrolled run-off could be the likely outcome. Theoretically, there are ways to build the site that are supposed to stop run-off and flooding but if we look close to home at the Plainville MA Solar Farm built by Madison Energy Investments, we'll find a cautionary tale.

- This large-scale solar farm was built on a hill that was deforested to make way for it.
- Uncontrolled flooding THAT devastated abutter homes and washed out Route 1A was the extremely destructive outcome.
- And Madison Energy Investments while sympathetic, pointed out that this outcome wasn't just their fault because the town's planning board approved their stormwater management plans.

Plainville's PLANNING Board Chair said "There's definitely a design failure THERE . Some things look good on paper until they are put in practice." I'm sure our City will do its best to create restrictions MEANT ^{PERFORMANCE STANDARD} to protect our resources but it's very difficult to do which is why building solar farms in heavily wooded areas is not recommended by environmental groups or by our state. In fact, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources strongly discourages designating sites for solar that would require significant tree cutting. Cutting trees eliminates important wildlife habitat, eliminates the trees' carbon fighting properties and eliminates their water absorption capabilities which significantly increases the likelihood of damaging run-off.

I know that finding solutions to Global warming is extremely important but protecting our drinking water supply is critically important as well. Lake Attitash is

designated as a Class A Outstanding Resource Water because it serves as the backup water supply for the city of Amesbury. The Massachusetts department of environmental protection added Lake Attitash to its integrated list of impaired waters in 1992 due to noxious aquatic plant species and again in 2016 due to harmful algae blooms.

Since then, the State, the City of Amesbury, the Town of Merrimac and Volunteers led by the Lake Attitash Association and the University of New Hampshire have done amazing work to clean up the lake.

We don't want to go backwards. Cyano bacteria is toxic to the touch, toxic through inhalation, toxic to pets and to wildlife – chronic exposure to cyanobacteria in drinking water has been linked to liver cancer, chronic liver damage, and other serious diseases so clearly, none of us want this coming out of our taps.

I've listened carefully to presentations by Attorney Fogel – it sounds like our city can and should say No on the basis that we need to protect the health & welfare of our citizens by protecting our water supply. I urge you to think very carefully about allowing the placement of a solar farm in such a very sensitive area. Thank you.

I know the city will be diligent in trying to create framework that protects our water supply, but I have a few questions related to the feasibility and effectiveness these additional restrictions will convey.

- First, what penalties can the city apply and actually collect in the event Syncarfa violates the restrictions?
- Are the penalties meaningful or a slap on the wrist?
- Businesses need to provide a return to its investors so if the penalties are not substantial, enforceable, and collectable, it could be in a business's best interest to cut corners and take their chances appealing or eventually paying a fine.
- Are the restrictions clear or are they ambiguous and open to interpretation?
- Finally – Does the city have the capacity or right to proactively monitor the work or would enforcement be retroactive – trying to clean up a problem after it has already caused devastating damage as was the case in Plainville?