

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF THOMASTON**

April 26, 2022

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 via videoconference at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steven Weinberg, Deputy Mayor Burton Weston, Trustee Jay W. Chagrin, Trustee Aaron S. Halpern, and Trustee Karen Lynne Siegel

Absent: None

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Weinberg read the following statement regarding the procedures for this meeting:

“Due to public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, and pursuant to New York State law, this meeting of the Board of Trustees is not being held in person.

The Board is meeting by videoconferencing. The meeting is being recorded and a transcription will be provided at a later date. The public has the opportunity to observe this meeting live online and to submit comments, pursuant to instructions given on the Village website and in the meeting notice.

The Village Administrator will now call the roll for attendance at this meeting by members of the Board and relevant Village staff.”

The Village Administrator called the roll.:

A quorum of the Board was in attendance and the business of the meeting began.

Mayor Weinberg welcomed the members of the public and outlined the purpose of the meeting. The sole purpose of the meeting was to receive public input with respect to developing a policy and/or local law to address the installation of residential solar systems. Mayor Weinberg noted that no action on a policy or local law would be taken by the Board at this meeting.

Public comments on residential solar systems installations

Mayor Weinberg invited comments from the public. The following members of the public spoke: Dick Merbaum, Glen Wilson, To-on Pang, Ethan Li, Mal Weinberg, Andrew Cronson, Nancy Sherman, Wendy Halpern, Steve Zhang and Olivia Pinsley.

The general consensus of comments received were in favor of residential solar installations. Several members of the public noted the benefits of solar power as a green/environmentally friendly energy source, and a step towards sustainability. Several speakers were against restricting the location of solar panels (front, side or rear roof surfaces) on the basis of aesthetics, citing the need to install solar panels on the roof surface that produces the highest yield. Some members of the public suggested that the Village should encourage solar installations and streamline the processing of applications. Other members were in favor of developing guidelines that balance both the power production and aesthetics.

Glen Wilson, Chair of the Design Review Board spoke about the need for regulations for residential solar systems in order for the Design Review Board to ensure that installations will be as aesthetically pleasing as possible, such as, symmetrical placement of the panels, placement of conduit in soffits or under roof, vertical conduits to be painted to match exterior walls, and placement of other external boxes/switches/equipment.

Mayor Weinberg thanked everyone for their comments and advised that the Board of Trustees would take the comments received into consideration in developing a policy and/or a local law with respect to residential solar installations. A draft of any such policy or local law will be considered at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

Adjournment

At 8:53 p.m., there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Siegel, seconded by Trustee Weston, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowland
Village Administrator