

1 INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF THOMASTON
2 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

4 APRIL 26, 2022

5 7:30 P.M.

6
7 P R E S E N T:

8 STEVEN WEINBERG, MAYOR

9 BURTON S. WESTON, DEPUTY MAYOR

10 JAY W. CHAGRIN, TRUSTEE

11 AARON S. HALPERN, TRUSTEE

12 KAREN LYNNE SIEGEL, TRUSTEE

13 DENISE KNOWLAND, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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16
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18
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20
21
22 JENNIFER DEVLIN
23 COURT REPORTER
24

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Starting
2 the recording.

3 When you're ready you can begin.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Good evening. It's 7:32
5 p.m. This is a Special Meeting of the Board
6 of Trustees of the Village of Thomaston. It
7 is April 26, 2022. And we are holding this
8 meeting based upon videoconferencing.

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

13 The board is meeting by
14 videoconferencing. The meeting is being
15 recorded and a transcription will be provided
16 at a later date. The public has the
17 opportunity to observe this meeting live
18 online and to submit comments pursuant to
19 instructions given on the Village website and
20 in the meeting notice.

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

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
2 Mayor Weston.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: Here.

4 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
5 Jay Chagrin.

6 TRUSTEE CHAGRIN: Here.

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
8 Aaron Halpern.

9 TRUSTEE HALPERN: Here.

10 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
11 Karen Lynne Siegel.

12 TRUSTEE SIEGEL: Here.

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
14 Steven Weinberg.

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: Here.

16 Do we have a quorum?

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes. A
18 quorum of the Board is in attendance, and we
19 can begin the business of the meeting.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: All right. Tonight we
21 have a very limited meeting. I appreciate
22 everyone who is here. It is really a town
23 hall meeting to hear if you have comments
24 with respect to what parameters should be

1 included in a policy or in a local law that
2 is addressed to solar panels for residential
3 use in our Village. This way we can get the
4 input of the community and that we can -- the
5 Board can then consider as it either drafts
6 or designs a policy or a local law that will
7 be proposed to the Village.

8 A local law -- I want to repeat -- is not
9 being proposed tonight. There is no local
10 law. The Village Board of Trustees will not
11 be taking any action tonight with respect to
12 solar energy, a policy for the Village or a
13 local law which has not been proposed to the
14 Village Board of Trustees. This is solely
15 for the purpose of gathering public input for
16 what parameters should be considered with
17 respect to any such policy or local law.

18 This issue has come to light because of
19 really the work of the Design Review Board.
20 I wish to again -- I did thank them at the
21 last Board of Trustees meeting. I wish to
22 thank Glen Wilson and all of the members of
23 the Design Review Board who have been
24 instrumental in trying to come up with a

1 checklist, a checklist of items that they
2 have reviewed and looked for with respect to
3 solar panel applications for residential use
4 that have come before the Design Review
5 Board.

6 The decisions of the Design Review Board
7 are then sent to the Board of Trustees to
8 either affirm, reject or modify. We placed
9 on the website the letter that the Design
10 Review Board came up with that lists the
11 items or elements or factors, parameters --
12 however you wish to describe it -- of the
13 items that the Design Review Board has to
14 date analyzed with respect to solar panel
15 applications.

16 We have also placed on the website an
17 example of what solar codes have looked like
18 from other villages. That includes the
19 Village of Kensington, the Village of
20 Manorhaven, the Village of Munsey Park and
21 also the Village of Plandome Manor. The Town
22 of North Hempstead's reference to solar is
23 also included on the website.

24 On the Village website you also have

1 reference sources from New York State. So
2 that if you have technical questions or wish
3 to seek technical information about solar
4 systems, we can review that documentation as
5 well.

6 Just one word of note. Many of the
7 reference sources discuss solar farms. We
8 are obviously certainly not addressing solar
9 farms. Solar farms will not exist in the
10 Village of Thomaston. We're talking about
11 solar panels strictly for residential use.

12 What the issues or factors that the
13 Design Review Board has looked at -- and I'm
14 not doing this in order of priority -- they
15 have looked at the placement of the panels.
16 They have looked at the symmetry of the
17 panels. They've looked at the type of panels
18 that are being placed. A key factor is also
19 the frame in which the panels are being
20 placed on the roof and the conduit. How is
21 the frame and the conduit being hidden?

22 They're looking at whether there is --
23 solar panels should be placed in the rear of
24 the residence and not have a street view. It

1 is an issue for the Village to discuss,
2 whether or not there should be a limitation
3 on the rear or the front of the house with
4 respect to a street view.

5 They have asked for a glare analysis from
6 the company that is proposing the
7 installation. Keep in mind, solar panels are
8 designed to absorb and not reflect light.
9 They have looked at the panels that have a
10 more uniform appearance in coloration, which
11 is typically dark, without lines.

12 They've looked at panels that have a
13 higher production. The idea of a higher
14 production again is that you can have fewer
15 panels installed on the roof rather than
16 more. But weigh in the fact that with higher
17 production is a cost factor.

18 It was very important -- they've looked
19 at the idea of screening the box, the utility
20 box where the -- to connect the solar panel
21 -- the solar system to the grid. That's --
22 and where that should be placed as well. And
23 again hiding or screening the conduit leading
24 to the box.

1 There are questions to look at. People
2 want a back-up battery for the system. How
3 many? And where will that be placed? And
4 there's examples in the state code to look
5 for that. There are -- Kensington does have
6 a restriction where there -- it should not be
7 viewed within 200 feet from the street. The
8 other village codes do not have such a
9 restriction.

10 We can discuss and look at whether or not
11 there's an impact on property values. I
12 think it's either been negligible or an
13 increase in terms of the value of the house.
14 But that is certainly something that needs to
15 be reviewed. Other villages have addressed
16 that no trees should come down in order to
17 make a solar system more efficient.

18 So those are just some of the factors.
19 And I look forward to hearing from each of
20 you as to comments on some of the factors.
21 Or please, any additional factors that you
22 feel should be considered.

23 I would ask that we open this up to the
24 floor. Raise your hand -- your virtual hand,

1 and we'll call on you one by one. There are
2 a number of people here tonight. We have an
3 excellent attendance. So I thank you.

4 I would appreciate, since we do have a
5 good attendance here, that -- why don't we
6 try to keep the comments to four minutes.
7 And then we're happy to call on you again
8 after everyone has had an opportunity to
9 present their views.

10 Unless anyone else from the Board would
11 like to speak, I would open this up to the
12 floor. Glen, is there anything preliminarily
13 you would like to state?

14 MR. WILSON: No. I think you covered it
15 all. That's good. At the very most you
16 could read the letter, but I think that's
17 unnecessary. I think you touched on the tabs
18 that are necessary.

19 I look forward to hearing from the
20 community about this.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Glen Wilson, again, is
22 our chair of the Design Review Board. Do we
23 have -- and let's acknowledge -- I'm sorry.
24 I'm just quickly scanning -- if we have

1 anyone else from Design Review.

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: We

3 have --

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Robert Meyer?

5 MR. MERBAUM: Could I just say something?

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

7 MR. MERBAUM: Dick Merbaum is my name.

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

9 MR. MERBAUM: I live on Lincoln.

10 I have been involved with solar stuff for
11 a while, but not residential, okay. And my
12 interest is really my concern over climate
13 change. So I feel that anything that
14 facilitates a positive response to the
15 challenge of climate change is a good thing.

16 When you were addressing the issues or
17 the concerns that some of the -- some people
18 have about the panels, you mentioned two
19 things which I have some problems with -- I
20 mean, if they were to be instituted. One is
21 the distance from the street. And the other
22 is whether the panels should face the street
23 or not.

24 And that's really -- in my view that's a

1 problem with -- do you discriminate against
2 people whose houses face north as oppose to
3 south and who don't have the wherewithal to
4 have 200 feet or 100 feet from the street
5 because somebody feels somewhat offended by
6 that?

7 So, I mean, my recommendation, for what
8 it's worth, is really that we don't institute
9 something which singles out or discriminates
10 against people with smaller property who want
11 to put it in or people whose houses face the
12 wrong direction than the one that other
13 people favor. I mean, it's not like -- with
14 wind power, it's not in my backyard kind of
15 situation. I think that people are getting
16 used to solar panels. And they're here.
17 They're going to stay here.

18 And I would hope that we would facilitate
19 the -- my major concern for the town would
20 be, you know, obviously whether the
21 contractor is qualified to install these
22 things, both the electrical systems and also
23 the panels themselves. I guess people should
24 be concerned over whether the panels -- I

1 don't know if this could be a code issue, but
2 whether the panels are capable of
3 withstanding certain weather conditions.

4 The big problem that the panel -- solar
5 panels face is the hail issue. And we
6 haven't had a huge problem with that, but
7 it's something that seems to be more
8 frequently -- more frequent in -- even in the
9 northeast now because of the presence of
10 heavier storms.

11 And the other is fire safety and the
12 proper placement of panels. I guess this
13 isn't as big an issue for residential as it
14 is for non-residential. But in the case of
15 installation of panels on flat roofs that are
16 large, there are -- there must be a certain
17 minimum spacing among the panels to
18 facilitate somebody coming up and doing
19 something. It's a good idea for the fire
20 department to know when a panel is being
21 installed and have some idea where the things
22 are being placed.

23 And it is true that, you know, the size
24 of the panel or the output per -- per given

1 square inch of the panel is increasing. So
2 that the availability and the ability to
3 install these things is going to increase
4 over time. We have a problem with my house.
5 We -- because of various issues the people
6 who were going to install the panels could
7 only -- could only replace about 40 percent
8 of the power. And it didn't seem to make a
9 lot of sense at that point. But at some
10 point I think it will.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Very good. Thank you
12 very much.

13 MR. WILSON: If I could just address a
14 few things that Dick mentioned?

15 Dick, we're very well aware -- and I
16 think in the public admission -- all of the
17 trustees and -- of the Village of Thomaston
18 and all of the board members of the Design
19 Review Board are pro-solar energy. I did not
20 see you at our last meeting which prompted
21 this town hall, but I will say that the turn
22 of events in our lifetime has affected the
23 environment. And there is a necessary and
24 popular movement away from fossil fuels, coal

1 and oil towards other sources of energy, of
2 which solar panels -- solar energy has a very
3 strong position at the forefront.

4 So this discussion is not really about
5 whether solar panels are good or bad. I
6 think it's unanimous that solar panels are
7 the way of the future. The point of the
8 meeting is to get public consensus about how
9 they should be regulated. And in my opinion
10 as a taxpayer, not as a board member, they
11 should be regulated, just like the side yard
12 of your house has been regulated.

13 Those zoning issues as to your side yard,
14 your rear yard, the height of a fence if you
15 want to put one in, whether you put a
16 swimming pool in which has to be fenced, how
17 large a pool you can make, what is the height
18 of your home, a million different guidelines
19 have been regulated over the millennium from
20 the first cave to the most recently
21 constructed mansion or other dwelling.

22 The point being with regulation we have
23 conformity. We have safety. We have the
24 contemplation of issues that arise when you

1 think of doing it yourself without any
2 instruction or regulation. The electricity
3 involved, the metal and silicon involved, the
4 mounting of the units on the roof and their
5 attachment to the substrature (phonetic), the
6 placement of the conduit, the placement of
7 the emergency cutoff valve, the operating
8 box. All of these are issues that we're here
9 to discuss. So I just want to put to rest
10 your concerns that we're not interested in
11 solar energy. We are all very interested in
12 solar energy.

13 So moving onto the next issue -- Steve,
14 I'm not sure how you want to address it,
15 but --

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: I didn't want to have --
17 I apologize. This is really a forum for
18 everyone to state what their views are as
19 oppose to having a one-on-one discussion
20 about any particular issue.

21 MR. WILSON: So do you have a format for
22 that, like a question and answer?

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: I want everybody to have
24 an opportunity to speak and contribute. And

1 that way the Board of Trustees can consider
2 different factors going forward.

3 MR. WILSON: Great.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: If there's certainly
5 comments you want to make after hearing from
6 -- collectively from different residents, by
7 all means. The Board of Trustees wants to
8 hear what you have to say about what factors
9 are -- should or shouldn't be considered or
10 how the issues should be dealt with.

11 I would like to remind -- so you're
12 welcome to speak now or you're welcome to
13 wait and hear from more people and then
14 perhaps, you know, address different issues
15 or different factors as you see it.

16 MR. WILSON: I guess I will wait for
17 someone to speak. Someone can speak.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: We have
19 two hands raised.

20 Mr. Pang --

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yeah. Ben has been
22 waiting.

23 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: --
24 raised his hand first, so --

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Ben, why don't you go
2 ahead. And, Glen, why don't you hear from
3 different people and then decide what it is
4 that you would like to add. All right. And
5 I would like to also remind everyone -- I
6 think the people here on the call know this
7 -- but just remind everyone that any
8 application that is made to the Design Review
9 Board is made on notice to residents within
10 200 -- is it 200 or 250 feet, Denise?

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: 200
12 feet.

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: 200 feet --

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: 200.

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: -- of the location. So
16 the immediate surrounding residents always
17 have the opportunity to comment on an
18 application. And any recommendation by the
19 Design Review Board is reviewed by the Board
20 of Trustees. So if you follow our agenda,
21 you -- any Village resident is welcome to
22 comment at any -- on an application that the
23 Board of Trustees is reviewing.

24 Ben, please go ahead.

1 MR. PANG: Okay. Thank you for calling
2 on me.

3 So I have a couple issue with the
4 treadness (phonetic). No. 1 is the street
5 facing view. As you know, my house face the
6 -- the roof of my house faces north. And
7 it's more efficient to collect the solar
8 energy from the south roof. I think last
9 time we have a solar company representative
10 telling us that, you know, the solar panel on
11 the north side is like 35 percent less
12 efficient than the south facing roof -- south
13 facing panel.

14 So I think it is an unreasonable
15 requirement for people like me that I'm not
16 allowed to install solar panel on the south
17 facing roof which is facing the street. I
18 think that's unreasonable. I think it's --
19 leaves me very little choice to install the
20 solar panel.

21 I think the regulation come about because
22 some people don't think the solar panel is
23 eye pleasing. They don't like the look of
24 it. But I think I did send some research

1 material to the Board of Trustees and to the
2 Design Review Board as well. Essentially the
3 solar panel have very little effect on the
4 house value. People do not put a lower bid
5 for a house just because their neighboring
6 house have solar panel. I think that's
7 obvious. And so I think that this regulation
8 is very unreasonable. That's No. 1.

9 No. 2. As far as the glare analysis is
10 concerned, I think the New York State solar
11 energy guide board is that the glare from the
12 solar panel is very minimum. The panel is
13 designed to absorb energy, not refract
14 energy. So I have, you know, question why
15 that is required.

16 And No. 3 is the survey. I think the
17 treadness (phonetic) that's some mistake is
18 that copy of a survey states, no less than
19 one year from date of application. I think
20 that's wrong. I think what you meant is --
21 the survey, less than one year from the date
22 of application. Am I right, Mr. Wilson?

23 MR. WILSON: I believe it does say one
24 year. And there is -- I will say at least

1 two factors that impact that, Mr. Pang. One
2 is that we want to make sure that what exists
3 on the property when the application for the
4 solar panel is submitted to the Village, that
5 the home is currently reflected on a survey.
6 There have been homes throughout the Village
7 that had have additions put on. They've had
8 stories or dormers added to a second level.

9 And so the momentum to get a recent site
10 survey is to make sure we know exactly what's
11 on the home plot. So it is really more
12 related to the timeliness of the application
13 so that we can see without any trouble that
14 it is what the homeowner says it is.

15 There you go.

16 MR. PANG: Thank you.

17 But I think for a lot of people their
18 house does not change a lot. For my house I
19 didn't make any addition in the last 10
20 years. I have a survey from 10 years ago.
21 It should be good for now. Because I am
22 putting up these because a survey does cost
23 6-, \$700 to get it. I'm pretty sure you know
24 that.

1 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Mr. Pang, you have a
2 home that hasn't changed. So if we have a
3 homeowner that has changed his home and they
4 don't tell us that, what would you do? How
5 would you handle a situation where we're
6 supposed to approve something on a -- you
7 know, on this date and time when they give us
8 a site survey that may not have the addition
9 that's going to have the panels on it or
10 something to that effect?

11 You may be a standout where you have not
12 made a change. But, you know, if you go up
13 and down my street, there's three homes that
14 are being constructed on. So what's being
15 done? I'm not going to look into every
16 construction permit. But if they're making
17 an application for a solar panel, they should
18 provide us with a current site survey.

19 So that's the purpose. The purpose is
20 not to run up the bill. I realize it's not
21 free. But I can also tell you that you can
22 call up your title company or your surveyor
23 and provide an update, which is a minimal
24 cost. A new site survey might be anywhere

1 from \$500 to \$1,500. And that is an undue
2 burden.

3 That is not what we're requesting,
4 although it may appear that that is what we
5 are requesting. We are simply trying to
6 promote the efficiency of streamlining the
7 process. Giving us a current site survey
8 that's been produced recently streamlines
9 that process when we serve the neighborhood.

10 MR. MERBAUM: What happens if you don't
11 have a recent? How about using Google maps
12 or taking a -- I mean, how many applications
13 are there that prevent people from going and
14 just looking at the property and comparing it
15 with the existing site survey?

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Look, I -- again,
17 everyone -- I appreciate everyone's comments.
18 And you've given us a lot to work with.

19 Glen, do you happen to know how much an
20 update for a survey is?

21 MR. WILSON: No, I do not. But if it
22 costs a -- go ahead.

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Ben, what -- I'm sorry.
24 And, Ben, did you have some additional

1 comments that you wanted to make, just so
2 that you have an opportunity to finish?

3 MR. PANG: Just one last comment.

4 I think on the treadness (phonetic) you
5 also have some color requirement. You
6 require the color matches the panel. I think
7 most solar panels are dark or deep blue. And
8 if we -- I had to match my roof shingle with
9 the panel. I have so much choice. I had to
10 choose something like charcoal. But there's
11 a lot of other color for the roof shingle.
12 Some are reddish. Some are like hickory.

13 So I think again I would like to have
14 some clarification on how -- what you mean
15 by, you know, matching the color with the
16 shingle?

17 MR. WILSON: If I may respond, Mr. Pang?

18 The assortment of colors and frames and
19 rims, conduit, mounting brackets, there are
20 an assortment of pieces that are used to not
21 only construct the panels themselves but the
22 equipment that's used -- not equipment --
23 mounting equipment that's used to put the
24 panels on the roof. They're all connected by

1 wire.

2 And in an unregulated environment, the
3 contractor -- it's been my experience
4 throughout my life in construction to see the
5 contractor take the quickest cheapest route
6 to -- from A to B. And frequently that may
7 lead to something that does not consider the
8 aesthetics.

9 And I think a large part of the
10 discussion about solar panels is the
11 aesthetics. There are people on one side of
12 the fence that could care less what they look
13 like. It's a functional issue. There are
14 people on the other side of the fence --
15 these are the two extremes -- that don't want
16 to see solar panels on a home, period, no
17 matter what the color is.

18 So the Design Review Board hears the two
19 extreme perspectives on the design issue.
20 And we're having the town hall meeting to try
21 to set up a regulation so that there's not a
22 blue panel on Joe's roof and there's a black
23 panel on Mary's roof and there's a steel
24 reflective panel on Charlie's roof, okay.

1 So there is a concern that it's going to
2 look like a circus if everyone puts their
3 multi-colored panels on the roof. You have
4 silver frames around a black panel, which may
5 be considered ugly. If you have a black
6 frame around a black panel it would be a more
7 cohesive look. I've heard arguments over
8 specific issues like this. And I'm bringing
9 it to the town hall attention because it is
10 an issue for people.

11 Please, do you have another question, Mr.
12 Pang?

13 MR. PANG: So I think you are more
14 referring to the frame of the solar panel,
15 not the shingle. Am I correct?

16 MR. PANG: The shape is pretty standard.
17 They're all rectangles and squares. I have
18 not seen any triangles or circles.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: Glen, the question was
20 that the color you're talking about in terms
21 of matching the panel is the frame, the
22 mounting bracket, the equipment. You're not
23 talking about the color of the roof and the
24 panel?

1 MR. WILSON: Oh. Well, obviously if you
2 have a greenish tint roof, I don't think they
3 make a greenish tint panel.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Right.

5 MR. WILSON: I don't think you have those
6 many choices that I've seen in the
7 manufacturing publications brochures that we
8 have been provided. They pretty much are
9 like what Mr. Pang said. They're a shade of
10 blue or they're a shade of black, the
11 charcoal gray, whatever you have.

12 Denise, have you seen anything other than
13 blue or black?

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: No. I
15 don't think so.

16 MR. WILSON: Okay. So there may be more
17 out there, but we haven't been presented with
18 another color.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: All right.

20 Ben, did you have another comment, or
21 were you finished?

22 MR. PANG: No. I'm done. Thank you.

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you, Ben.

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Ben.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Ethan?

2 MR. LI: Yes. I'm Ethan Li here for all
3 the folks in the town. So I will make a
4 couple of high level points.

5 I am in full agreement with what Dick and
6 Ben have said in terms of not discriminating
7 a house because of the orientation of their
8 roof and which direction they're facing. And
9 I would ask that all of the people on this
10 call be mindful of what is something that is
11 undisputable but is something that is very v
12 subjective to a personal taste.

13 What is undisputable is anything that is
14 facing the south, you're going to get the
15 most solar production. That is a fact. All
16 right. What is subjective is how does
17 someone see the light of someone's house in
18 terms of the look and feel and so on. That
19 is someone that's adjusting the smile on the
20 Mona Lisa.

21 So with that point I think I would highly
22 make this argument for myself and for the
23 rest of the town here. One thing to note
24 here is Thomaston is a village where we have

1 a different mix of all shapes of --different
2 types of houses: ranches, mid center,
3 colonial and so on.

4 By that factor itself not every house is
5 able to even pass the analysis or the
6 evaluation contractor to install the solar
7 because of the angle of their roof and the
8 slope and so on. So by nature -- we're not
9 talking about a full town of Thomaston here
10 where every house is potentially going to
11 have a solar panel. So people have to be
12 aware of that fact. All right.

13 The second thing is if your house, such
14 as mine, that fits the qualification of the
15 right angle to get the most production from
16 the sun and be on the slope that is capable
17 of installing, then we should go through the
18 process and install it. There should not be
19 any discrimination on the fact that, hey, I
20 have a clean view to the sun and I am being
21 penalized because it's facing the street. I
22 don't think that's acceptable.

23 This is not an HOV. This is not a cookie
24 cutter community in Florida. We have the

1 right to our own house. If we can paint our
2 house any color, I should be able to put a
3 solar panel on my roof, right. This is the
4 modern age. We're driving electric cars now.
5 This is a reality. If -- for the extreme
6 case that people talk, oh, people don't just
7 care about solar panels, they don't even like
8 it regardless of the size, then I should tell
9 that person don't drive a car. Go get a
10 horse, you know. This is not -- people have
11 to keep up with the times. All right. I
12 just want to make that high level point.

13 I don't want to go into the checklist
14 that Glen is going to talk about. And there
15 are valid points in the checklist in terms of
16 the regulation of hiding some of the wiring,
17 the conduits, the colors and all of that. I
18 have no problem with those. But the main
19 point of this discontent by a lot of the
20 residents here is you're discriminating
21 because my roof is facing the south. And I
22 do not accept that as a resident.

23 MR. WILSON: Good points.

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Ethan, thank you.

1 Okay. Mal, did you have a comment?

2 MR. WEINBERG: Yes. Mal Weinberg. I'm
3 here in Thomaston for 30 years.

4 I did look at the sample village codes
5 that were posted on the website. And I
6 notice that the one listed for Manorhaven was
7 very complete, to the point where they
8 notified first responders of what location,
9 etc., of the panels. They seem to
10 incentivize, go out of their way to
11 incentivize and streamline the process for
12 getting a building permit, etc. So they're
13 doing everything. And they also don't have
14 the 200-foot requirement. I --

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: They do or they don't?

16 MR. WEINBERG: They don't.

17 Ethan Li, I really agree. Really
18 appreciate how he stated the issues. Because
19 if you're pro-solar, it makes no sense to
20 have that 200 foot. It makes no sense for
21 the north or south discrimination. It makes
22 no sense.

23 I remember 1958 there was a TV program on
24 CBS that was talking about the possibility

1 that they should look into climate change.
2 1958. Sixty-four years ago. What are we
3 waiting for? It's happening. We're in the
4 midst of it. You should do everything to
5 incentivize.

6 And, yes. Most houses in Thomaston are
7 not going to really benefit from solar. But
8 you have to do the most that you can. I was
9 there for the April 11th meeting for a short
10 while. I happened to walk in during the
11 solar panel discussion. So I was there.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

13 MR. WEINBERG: That's it. They should be
14 placed where they're efficient. There are
15 other considerations to make it -- with that
16 in mind to make it as aesthetically pleasing
17 as possible, but not to the point where it's
18 going to affect the efficiency of the
19 placement of the panels. Very simple.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you, Mal.

21 MR. MERBAUM: I also think that Ethan
22 made the point that I was thinking, which is
23 there's so many different looking houses and
24 structures in Thomaston, how do you single

1 out solar panels for their aesthetic issues?
2 You're going to ask someone if they want to
3 change the paint on their front or the color
4 of their paint, if they should change their
5 front? I mean, it doesn't make sense.

6 MR. WILSON: Comment to this.

7 Before we go back to people I would like
8 to make it through -- and we haven't heard
9 from Andrew. Before anyone repeats, responds
10 to another issues, the least, Steve, I think
11 you might agree, we would like to hear from
12 Andrew, and anyone else that hasn't spoken
13 yet. And then we'll come back to everyone.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Andrew.

15 MR. CRONSON: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. And
16 thank you, Mayor Weinberg and trustees. Good
17 evening.

18 I appreciate the recent promotion of laws
19 and programs and the public interest
20 following the recent landmarking of Tower
21 Ford, as we're building up on that momentum
22 to enhance the public experience. In an
23 attempt to reduce the impact on the man-made
24 climate crisis that we are approaching, solar

1 panels are a great start and a multi-pronged
2 approach that municipalities can have to be
3 more sustainable, but unfortunately not a one
4 and done. Solar panels are in place, and
5 that's all that's needed to feel good.

6 Being in an area that abuts Manhasset Bay
7 and is above the (Inaudible) aquifer, there's
8 great care needed from Thomaston residents to
9 greatly reduce their footprint. However,
10 these approaches are only as good as the
11 practicality for owners to have these
12 measures put in place in their property.

13 Looking at the Village of Munsey Park
14 where I am, they have a law, but I don't
15 believe a single homeowner has panels in
16 place. And I cite (phonetic) the village
17 from the sky more often than you can ever
18 count doing history research. I would most
19 strongly encourage Thomaston to ensure that a
20 practical but meaningful incentive is in
21 place, perhaps in the form of fair tax rebate
22 or expediting for projects with sustainable
23 features in place, to ensure that as many
24 residents as possible have a reason and a

1 motivation to participate.

2 Thank you.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

4 MR. WILSON: Good. Thank you.

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Does anyone else wish to
6 be heard?

7 MR. MERBAUM: There's a New York State
8 initiative which allows -- NYSERDA has gone
9 through the public service commission which
10 does provide for incentives for smaller --
11 for residential solar installations. So you
12 can get -- it's not a tax benefit. It's
13 actually a dollar benefit per watt. I think
14 it's the maximum you can get is \$1.20 per
15 watt. The cost of -- relating to the cost of
16 the panel -- of the solar installation. And
17 you can also get -- I guess you probably can
18 get -- I don't know if you can get investment
19 tax credit from the federal government, but
20 there is a New York State initiative.

21 MR. WILSON: Yes. Thank you.

22 MR. LI: Ethan here. So I can make a
23 comment to that point.

24 There is currently incentives both from

1 the federal and the state with regard to tax
2 rebate for installing the solar. I just want
3 to make the note.

4 MR. MERBAUM: Thank you. And that's the
5 26 percent investment tax credit. I'm not
6 sure if it's available for residential
7 anyway. There's accelerated depreciation
8 benefit as well for solar.

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

10 Nancy Sherman?

11 MR. WILSON: Yes. Let's move to Nancy
12 and Wendy. Nancy first.

13 MS. SHERMAN: Yeah. Can you hear me?

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: We can.

15 MS. SHERMAN: Okay. Well, I'm in favor
16 of the recommendations that have been put
17 forth and drafts -- as a draft by the Design
18 Review Board. And I think that it's very
19 important to have solar panels. I think it's
20 also important to balance that in terms of
21 the aesthetics of the Village so that we will
22 maintain the aesthetic integrity of the
23 Village, which we fought so hard to maintain
24 when it came to the Tower Ford building, etc.

1 So I don't think it's unreasonable to
2 make sure that whoever places solar panels on
3 their property, which I think is very
4 positive, and I agree with Mr. Lee that
5 people should not be discriminated because of
6 which direction their home faces and which
7 direction should be -- would be better to
8 place the panels.

9 But I do agree that certain aesthetic
10 requirements should be in place regarding how
11 they are visualized or not visualized from
12 the street. And if they were to be
13 visualized in any manner, then it should be
14 the best way that would not be obtrusive in
15 my opinion. Not to say that solar panels
16 should not be placed. Because I agree they
17 should be for the environment.

18 I also agree with Andrew Cronson. You
19 know, it's his suggestion that there should
20 be some type of incentive from the Village,
21 whether it be a tax incentive or something or
22 other, to try to incentivize people to do
23 things in their homes which are beneficial
24 both in, you know, saving on energy costs and

1 also improving the environment.

2 So thank you for listening to me.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you very much.

4 MR. WILSON: Did you have any
5 recommendation as to other things in the home
6 that can be done, Nancy? Maybe you can
7 submit that to Steve or to Denise for future
8 consideration.

9 MS. SHERMAN: Sure. Thank you.

10 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

11 Wendy, we'd like to hear from you.

12 MS. HALPERN: Thank you.

13 So first I wanted to say that I am in
14 favor of solar panels and anything that we
15 can do to help the environment. I wanted to
16 note that the checklist, which I thought was
17 very comprehensive and seems to take into
18 account a lot of the factors in other codes
19 around the area here, I think it's a good
20 idea. And I want to, I guess, keep in mind
21 that these are guidelines. And so it's not
22 that -- the way I read it -- that you have to
23 comply with every single one of these
24 factors. But these are factors that will be

1 taken into account and considered.

2 And so for example, you know, just
3 talking about the color of the panels, right.
4 Like, we would want to have the best possible
5 match that there is for the quality for the
6 panels. We want to make sure that they're
7 the most energy efficient without wires all
8 over the place. You know, the pattern of the
9 tiles. For example, like, they should be
10 standardized and not just scattered around
11 the roof. If there's ways they can be placed
12 to balance the aesthetics plus the
13 functionality.

14 So I think that this is -- I don't read
15 this as being a black and white type of
16 issue. I think that these are all factors.
17 And obviously if there's notice given and the
18 residents around them have issues, that
19 should also be a factor.

20 You know, when you think about what makes
21 our Village so special is this Design Review
22 Board. And I know having gone through my own
23 renovation, I know the Design Review Board
24 has input and things like colors of windows

1 and railings. And they want a door that
2 looks like this and not like that. And it's
3 partially to keep what makes the Village so
4 special. And so I'm imagining that's the
5 kind of dialogue that would happen with any
6 solar application, that it's a -- it's a give
7 and take as to how we can make this best for
8 the environment, for the homeowner and for
9 the surrounding neighbors and for the Village
10 as a whole.

11 The other thing I would say is I think
12 that one of the factors that should be
13 considered is, what else could a homeowner do
14 to help improve their impact on the
15 environment? So, for example, you know,
16 should it be -- this is just a question. If
17 a house has, say, horrible windows, right,
18 and they're getting an incentive to do solar
19 panels, should they be required to update
20 other aspects of the house as well? Because
21 it's not just one aspect that helps the
22 environment. And so should there be other
23 considerations that should be taken into
24 account on these applications?

1 And the last point -- I'm just trying to
2 think. Oh, yeah. And I do think that speaks
3 that the Village can do things to facilitate
4 or give -- to incentivize these applications.
5 I think that's a good thing. We can follow
6 what the state does. And maybe there's even
7 programs available from the state or federal
8 government that, you know, the Village can
9 put in for if we do implement some sort of
10 solar process.

11 And the last point is on the survey. You
12 know, I guess I would say if a survey is
13 required for any other renovation that's
14 done, I would say that this should just
15 follow what those rules are. I'm assuming
16 that we ask for surveys for other kinds of
17 renovations.

18 MR. WILSON: We do.

19 MS. HALPERN: So that will just be an
20 extension of that as well.

21 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

22 MAYOR WEINBERG: Anything else? I'm
23 sorry, Wendy. Was there anything else?

24 MS. HALPERN: No. Not now.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

2 Steve?

3 MR. ZHANG: Yes, sir. How are you?

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Good. How are you.

5 MR. ZHANG: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank
6 you, Board of Trustees for giving me chance
7 to talk. I'm sorry I came late. I was on
8 the way home.

9 Actually I'm going to put a solar panel
10 on my roof. And last time I attended the
11 meeting in village hall. And I think -- I
12 really appreciate the DRB put so many
13 requirements, work very hard to put so many
14 details for us as it's going on. But when I
15 read all of them, I feel like Village of
16 Thomaston is not really working for solar
17 panel. It's the first feeling I have. Based
18 on this kind of restrictions no one can put a
19 solar panel for roof.

20 But I would like to say go green, green
21 energy. Save our environment. It's a very
22 hot topic. Everybody trying to do something.
23 Even though the thing we did is very minor,
24 minor impact, we do something. I hope

1 Village can set up to encourage people to use
2 solar panel and green energy. Like here, no
3 solar panel should be visible from the house
4 or have an active visual impact on the
5 character of the neighborhood.

6 Whatever. Like, solar panel roof, other
7 people seeing that have different idea. Some
8 say, oh, this looks good. Some will say, oh,
9 solar panel looks ugly. Some will say I
10 don't care. It really depends on every
11 single one's idea. So if you say, okay, it's
12 lack of impact, what is the definition of
13 lack of impact? This is one.

14 Another thing, okay, like glare effect.
15 After -- all the solar panel face the sky.
16 They face up to the sky. They don't face
17 down the street. As I said last time, the
18 houses in Thomaston, every single house is
19 two, three, four neighbors. All houses, they
20 face at least one street. So if we concerned
21 we have the glare effect problem, I don't
22 understand that. You drive straight.

23 MR. WILSON: May I address that, Mr.
24 Zhang, because I know you did raise this

1 during our meeting? And maybe not enough
2 people understood what the glare study does.

3 The example that was concurrent with the
4 last meeting, there was a home. If you drive
5 on Northern Boulevard east or west and you
6 turn onto -- Denise, I want to say Schank and
7 the home directly in front of you after you
8 make the turn headed north was an application
9 for solar panels. And, you know, we agreed
10 with everything. That went through. And
11 they're putting solar panels on the home.

12 The example that we discussed in the
13 meeting was the sun changes its rise during
14 the course of the day. And depending upon
15 where the street enters that glare, it could
16 be like a flashlight in your eyes and cause
17 an accident. Granted, it's probably highly
18 unlikely, but wouldn't it be terrible if
19 someone had an accident because we never
20 checked that?

21 It's a necessity to be thorough. And
22 even though it may be in your home the way
23 your roofs are somewhat semi-flat, they're
24 not highly angled, there -- the regulation is

1 meant to encompass all types of homes with
2 all types of roofs. So you may not need that
3 application submission of a glare study, but
4 it's incorporated in the letter because we
5 don't know when we get your application what
6 the impact could be.

7 So again, it's the greater good of the
8 community that is at heart. We need to have
9 a glare study so that the impact is a known
10 quantifiable issue and not a guess. Once the
11 panels are installed it's a lot more
12 troublesome and expensive to remove them or
13 to adjust them. So that's the purpose of the
14 glare study.

15 It's not just traffic. It's also if a
16 neighbor wants to sit in his backyard and
17 have a Coca-Cola at 5:30 after a hard days
18 work and he's in his chaise lounge and the
19 sun is bouncing off of a neighbor's roof that
20 has solar panels and he has the rays of the
21 sun in his face, that can be seen as
22 offensive. It may not be a high probability
23 of occurring, but again that is another
24 reason for a study to be completed.

1 Now, I don't know the cost of these
2 studies. If you have prepared a glare study
3 and submitted it to the Board, maybe you can
4 share with us what it costs to get a glare
5 study. Did you have one, Mr. Zhang, when you
6 completed your application? I don't
7 remember.

8 MR. ZHANG: You're asking me, Glen?

9 MR. WILSON: Did you have a glare study
10 completed?

11 MR. ZHANG: Not yet. The first time we
12 even don't know we need that. After that
13 meeting we are preparing for that. They
14 didn't finish the job yet. That's why they
15 didn't submit new application with the report
16 yet.

17 MR. WILSON: If I may ask?

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Glen.

19 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Glen, I apologize. But
21 let me interrupt and we'll move on, unless
22 the only -- I'm not aware that anyone in the
23 room has paid for a glare study. It's
24 certainly a factor that we can look at and

1 we'll consider.

2 MR. WILSON: Okay.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: But, Mr. Zhang, you were
4 giving us your comments. Can you please
5 continue?

6 MR. ZHANG: Yeah. So I talking about the
7 glare report. I talked about like
8 multi-regional impact and being visible from
9 neighbors and from the front. Like, if we
10 set up regulation like my solar panel cannot
11 set up, I'm fine with that for everyone, not
12 just for me. But I would like to suggest our
13 Village keep -- like to encourage the people
14 to use green energy. So that's very, very
15 important for our next generation.

16 Yeah. And the good question for me,
17 okay. You said you save like \$300 a month.
18 This is really big deal with solar panels.
19 Sometimes yes. Like today \$300 on the bill
20 for, you know, electricity maybe later on may
21 be \$400, maybe \$500. Who knows? Because gas
22 price going up, oil price going up. We don't
23 know that.

24 So another thing is, like, we have one,

1 two, three, four, six neighbors. Think about
2 that. Every single neighbor like putting
3 like generator. One day our power outage,
4 six families all at the same time all running
5 a generator. How big noise is that? Five
6 hours, six generators -- seven generators.
7 They all work the same time. Very noisy.
8 Makes big sounds. I don't know anything
9 about that. So many details I do know.
10 That's what I think.

11 I hope we can encourage people use new
12 technology, new -- go green and say okay, the
13 view that -- that view not -- some people
14 like it. Some people don't. No. I don't
15 think it's the standard, is negative impact
16 or positive impact. Also I understand that
17 maybe someone don't like, but you get
18 advantage of, okay, use solar panel or like,
19 we should have a group benefit for that.

20 That's all. I thank you.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you very much.

22 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Wendy, do you have a
24 follow up?

1 MS. HALPERN: Yeah. I guess one of the
2 questions that might help clarify is, what's
3 the contemplated procedure that we're talking
4 about here? Is it that every application for
5 solar panels would still go before the Design
6 Review Board and these are factors that are
7 taken into account? Or is -- are we looking
8 to have, like, a fast track, if you meet
9 certain criteria you don't have to go before
10 the Design Review Board?

11 And the last thing I just wanted to point
12 out was just, you know, reading these
13 guidelines in more detail, it seems that they
14 are fairly subjective. I mean, they are --
15 they do seem to be guidelines to me. For
16 example, it says you can't -- it can't be
17 visible within 200 feet of the property
18 unless the fixture doesn't have a negative
19 visual impact. It can't be visible from the
20 street, but it contemplates putting some sort
21 of screening -- or I don't know exactly what
22 that is. But it's not like you can't have
23 panels if you're 200 feet from the street.
24 There's this caveat in these guidelines.

1 So I guess if you can explain what the
2 contemplated procedure is and what the
3 purpose of these guidelines are. Like, is
4 this going to be looked at like almost a
5 zoning rule and you have to apply for a
6 variance if you're outside of it, or -- like
7 what exactly are the guidelines going to do?

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. I touch --
9 excellent, excellent question.

10 We touched on this a little bit earlier.
11 These guide -- one. The applications will
12 continue to go to the Design Review Board.
13 Two. We are -- I -- the Board of Trustees is
14 not looking to change that process. The
15 applications will continue to go to the
16 Design Review Board. Three. The same
17 process will be followed where the Design
18 Review Board will make a recommendation and
19 the Board of Trustees will affirm, reject or
20 modify the recommendation.

21 So, again -- because this was very
22 important and it ties into your earlier
23 comment and -- the homeowners within 200 feet
24 will get notice of all applications. The

1 guidelines that the Design Review Board has
2 worked very hard to develop are guidelines
3 that the Design Review Board is utilizing
4 presently to consider applications.

5 The Board of Trustees is reviewing with
6 the -- again, this is the first step -- with
7 the input from everyone as to whether or not
8 the process should continue based upon the
9 guidelines that the Design Review Board has
10 developed, or whether or not the Board of
11 Trustees should implement some parameters
12 within -- by a local law that the Design
13 Review Board would then follow.

14 The idea is to keep them flexible. The
15 idea is to -- because one size does not fit
16 all in any way, shape, form or manner. We
17 are always interested in fast tracking,
18 especially something that is environmentally
19 friendly. And the idea is, what can we do
20 that would have the greatest flexibility but
21 allow -- again, not every house is going to
22 be eligible for this. But the houses that
23 are interested will be able to do it.

24 So the question is whether or not really

1 we should make a local law along these lines.
2 That's -- and what factors should be in the
3 local law, how much flexibility there should
4 be in the local law and what we can do to
5 incentivize it or what we can do to fast
6 track it.

7 So really the next step is, you know, the
8 Board will certainly discuss this. And we'll
9 continue the dialogue. And we'll see what
10 proposal we would like to put forth. And,
11 again, I want to reiterate. Whatever the
12 proposal is is going to be subject to
13 whatever the process is for passing a local
14 law, which obviously would be subject to a
15 public hearing. It really is a prequel to
16 get an idea of what we should draft.

17 The last comment that I would like to
18 address. We want a process in place similar
19 to what we did with central air units. I
20 think that we would want a process in place
21 that while we can't take into account every
22 possible situation, we do want to try to take
23 into account both situations, allow enough
24 flexibility so that someone does not have to

1 get a zoning variance. They can, but we want
2 to try to make it so that it would be a rare
3 case. Because we're very sensitive. That's
4 a very expensive process for our residents.
5 And we would want to limit that. And we
6 don't want to put residents in a position
7 where they would have to get a variance with
8 respect to whatever is put in place.

9 Does that help? Wendy -- I'm sorry --
10 did that address the question?

11 MS. HALPERN: Yeah. Sorry. I was
12 looking for my mute button.

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: Olivia Pinsley.

14 MS. PINSLEY: Hi. I'm not really going
15 to ask a question, but sort of make an
16 observation.

17 I have solar panels on my house. We put
18 them up about 3 1/2 years ago. We used a
19 reputable company. They come in and they do
20 a lot of surveys. And it wasn't up to us to
21 decide what type of solar panel you were
22 going to get. I don't think that there's
23 color options or anything like that.

24 There's a lot that goes into how these

1 solar panels are placed on the roof. Ours
2 are south facing, so they're actually in the
3 backyard of my home. They are not in the
4 front. I don't even know if there was a
5 Design Review Board that was involved with
6 our solar panels. I just know that the
7 company dealt with everything and our permits
8 and with the Village. So it all went well.
9 And I am for anybody who wants to put solar
10 panels on their home, whether it's in the
11 front or the back.

12 The aesthetics of a solar panel is
13 ridiculous. Because I don't get to decide
14 what color people's houses are, the kind of
15 bushes that they have in front of their
16 house, the color of the roof that they pick.
17 So solar panels have to go in the front, I'm
18 all for that.

19 We actually save 50 percent on our
20 electricity every month. We've gotten
21 rebates from the state and I believe the
22 federal too. And it ended up -- we ended up
23 saving like \$16,000 in placing these panels.
24 Not every house can get panels based on the

1 exposure of their house and other things
2 regarding their roof.

3 But I don't understand -- I hope that
4 they are not going to be putting major
5 restrictions on people or make people have to
6 get variances to place a solar panel on their
7 home if it's what's best for the environment,
8 what's best for people to save money. And
9 again aesthetics, I don't care if people have
10 solar panels no matter what they look like on
11 people's homes. I think that should be a
12 personal decision on their part.

13 That's all that I wanted to say. I just
14 wanted to say one final other thing.
15 Welcome, Jay and Aaron, to the Board of
16 Trustees. Great to see you.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

18 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Anyone else who
20 hasn't spoken who wishes to be heard?

21 MR. ZHANG: Excuse me, Mr. Mayor. Can I
22 talk again --

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: You can.

24 MR. ZHANG: -- very quick?

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Let me just check and
2 make sure. Is there anyone else who wishes
3 to speak.

4 (There was no response.)

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Nobody else.

6 Mr. Zhang, please go ahead.

7 MR. ZHANG: Thank you, sir.

8 I want to share the cost and the rebate
9 and -- from New York State. And my existing
10 proposal, total cost will be \$72,912. We can
11 get tax credit from New York State \$6,250.
12 We can get \$18,021 from federal. So
13 eventually on my cost for out of my pocket
14 will be \$43,541.

15 So the reason I am not sure of the
16 numbers along to share with everyone and from
17 federal, from New York State, they really
18 encourage these type of -- these kind of new
19 technology. Go green. That's why I suggest
20 our Village give more flexibility for the
21 people to use solar panel and save our
22 environment and go green.

23 Thank you.

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

1 Okay. Any members of the Board of
2 Trustees have any questions or comments at
3 this time? The public has certainly given us
4 an awful lot to think about and consider in
5 terms of what we should include in any future
6 policy guidelines or legislation.

7 TRUSTEE SIEGEL: I wanted to comment.

8 I think this was an excellent opportunity
9 to hear from our concerned constituents. And
10 personally I really do think there are --
11 that the guidelines are solid, sensible. But
12 everything we can do to maximize, more
13 incentives and streamline a bit more and
14 modify so that it is more available to more
15 of our residents.

16 I appreciate everybody's --

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you. Okay.

18 TRUSTEE HALPERN: I also want to echo
19 appreciation to the community for chiming in
20 and offering each of your perspectives.
21 Obviously there's lot of different opinions
22 relating to the efficiency and practicality
23 versus certain aesthetic considerations as
24 well. And I appreciate everyone offering

1 their comment on that.

2 Thank you.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

4 Anyone else?

5 MR. MERBAUM: I would just like to say
6 that they should be -- I'm obviously on the
7 side of facilitating the effort to do this.
8 So any rules that are imposed should be
9 minimal in my view. And they should reflect
10 not a particular person's position with
11 respect to aesthetics or not, but something
12 that goes to the heart basically of what we
13 want to accomplish here, which is really to
14 facilitate this without introducing
15 unnecessary delays and costs that really --
16 that don't really add anything.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

18 TRUSUTEE HALPERN: One thing I would be
19 interested to know is some of the costs, for
20 example, of the glare analysis. If anyone
21 from the public who's in the process of
22 applying or planning to apply has that
23 information, I would be very interested in
24 seeing, for example, the cost of that or any

1 of the other aspects of the application
2 process.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aaron, we have three
4 recent applications. And we'll follow up and
5 ask them if they would share that information
6 with us.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: I would also ask if
8 folks know whether there's any expiration
9 date on the tax incentives that are being
10 offered by the state and federal government
11 at this point in time? Do they expire by
12 chance by year end, or are they going to
13 extend into '23?

14 MR. MERBAUM: Right now it's a dollar
15 amount by the state. I think they're
16 allocating something like \$70,000,000. There
17 are different branches.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: I understand.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: We can get -- sorry to
20 interrupt. We can get the answer to that. I
21 do believe they -- on the federal level I
22 think they expire. And it's on a sliding
23 scale by different amount. But then I do
24 believe then they're periodically up for

1 renewal. So you have to take the expiration
2 with a grain of salt, because they do get
3 renewed. But we can get the answer to that.

4 MR. MERBAUM: Twenty six percent this
5 year. And supposed to go to 22 percent next
6 year.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Right.

8 MR. MERBAUM: Whether they do that or
9 not --

10 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: There are a couple
11 of others, Steve, whose hands are raised.
12 Ruchira I think had her hand raised and Ethan
13 as well.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Oh, okay. Absolutely.

15 MS. MADAN: Hi. I just wanted to say
16 Momentum Solar was one that provided a glare
17 analysis with their submission --

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Thank you.

19 MS. MADAN: -- for the DRB.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: For the public, Ruchira
21 Madan is one of the other members of the
22 Design Review Board.

23 Ethan, you have another comment?

24 MR. LI: Yes. Just to address some of

1 the comments from the group here, the last
2 few questions.

3 My house, the application does have a
4 clear report from EM Power. From what I
5 understand the charges are minimal with
6 regards to that. The second point is with
7 regards to the expiration of the incentive.
8 I think Dick is correct. It's on a sliding
9 scale with 26 percent for this year. You
10 know, what to become of the next few years?
11 I think that's unknown at this moment.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: Just again so it's clear
13 to the public, that's federal. That's not
14 New York State.

15 MR. LI: That's federal and state.

16 MRS. LI: New York State is \$5,000 tax
17 credit.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: That's a cap on the tax
19 credit. Do you know if that's expiring or
20 changing the amount?

21 MR. LI: My wife is checking.

22 MRS. LI: We cannot expect them to renew.
23 It's very complicated with regulations and
24 all of that.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Of course. And we'll
2 follow up. Thank you very much. That's very
3 helpful.

4 TRUSTEE HALPERN: I have a question for
5 Glen just on the issue of the coloring, the
6 roof shingle color verses the color of the
7 solar panel.

8 Are there existing guidelines for the
9 zoning review board? For example, if someone
10 did an extension that attaches to a house and
11 there's a new roof line that's added to a
12 house, part of that extension as to whether
13 or not the color of the roof has to match the
14 existing house structure roof?

15 MR. WILSON: There is a Design Review
16 Board policy where we ask the homeowner and
17 the contractor or the architect to match as
18 closely as possible. If a home has a roof
19 that's been done 20 or 30 years ago and
20 they're putting on an addition, it may be
21 very difficult because of the age of the part
22 of the roof that's not being replaced to
23 match the new roofing. But it is part of
24 what we request.

1 When a homeowner gets involved in
2 resurfacing a roof we ask for samples. They
3 bring in the sample. Frequently they will
4 have photographs that are requested. I know
5 I will personally drive by the house.
6 Sometimes I will get out of the car and walk
7 around the house or up to the front door and
8 knock and introduce myself. You know, it's
9 very difficult to match roofing shingles of a
10 different age.

11 But in response to an earlier question,
12 if I may, Aaron. With the letter that was
13 written and submitted to the Board of
14 Trustees, I think there's, you know, 10
15 different items that are mentioned. They're
16 -- all come to the Board from the public at
17 our meetings. And we -- as the Board boiled
18 it down to the essential items that needed to
19 be discussed at the meeting today. But I
20 think there are several issues that you would
21 all be in agreement with that need to be
22 followed in order to streamline the
23 application process and leave as little as
24 possible to the presentation to the board --

1 of the Design Review Board.

2 And as I look at the letter, there's some
3 obviously things like a request for a current
4 site survey. That the roof that is going to
5 be used as substructure, that it be sound.
6 And that there be an architect or an engineer
7 that completes some testing of the roof so
8 that when the contractors go up to put a
9 solar panel on, that the panels are not going
10 to fall through rotten material in two years
11 and create havoc. So these are, like,
12 obvious answers that will streamline the
13 process.

14 The color of the roof and the color of
15 the panels is an issue only because they
16 usually do not match. I don't consider it an
17 issue that would prevent the installation of
18 panels. You know, my roof is a green tint,
19 so the panels would be black or blue. And
20 there would be a contrast issue. I don't
21 think that gets in the way of whether -- the
22 decision to put a panel on.

23 The discussion is more about homogeneity,
24 homogenous panels with frames that get

1 installed on the roof. There are homes that
2 have black panels with silver frames around
3 the black panels. It's not -- it's not as
4 attractive as a black panel with a black
5 frame. It's a very simple request for the
6 manufacturer to bring to the homeowner a
7 panel that is black with a black rim on it
8 instead of a shiny silver ring on it. These
9 are simple things, obvious things. But they
10 keep coming back to the Board. And it needs
11 to be addressed.

12 So these items could be itemized in the
13 application as the manufacturer and the
14 homeowner fill it out. They don't have to
15 answer these questions again if they've
16 already given us a site survey that they have
17 had the roof checked for stability and
18 longevity and these kind of things.

19 So I just want everyone to know that
20 there are still certain regulations that can
21 be formatted to streamline the process.
22 Right now there's nothing in place. And so
23 the manufacturers make a presentation, and it
24 all needs to be tightened up. And it just --

1 it's time wasting for the Board. It's time
2 wasting for the homeowner. And it's time
3 wasting for the installer and the
4 manufacturer. So we do want to streamline
5 the process. We are all pro-solar energy.
6 And there are issues that can be addressed to
7 streamline it.

8 There you go.

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you. That is an
10 excellent summary and conclusion. Thank you.

11 Burt, were you -- Burt, did you have
12 anything else you wanted to add, or you were
13 done with your comments before?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: No. I was just
15 saying that was the sole question that I had
16 left.

17 Thank you, Steve.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Jay, was there
19 anything you wanted to add? Otherwise --

20 TRUSTEE CHAGRIN: No. I just echo
21 everyone and thank the community and
22 constituents for sharing their views. It's
23 very important for us to get all the
24 information from those that are affected by

1 everything that we do. So I appreciate that.
2 And hopefully we can move forward and
3 everybody will be in consensus when we're
4 done.

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

6 All right. Well, again I thank you very,
7 very much. This is invaluable and helpful
8 and will help us so that we can put something
9 together that actually will streamline the
10 application process and -- so that homeowners
11 who want or can do this and want to do it
12 will be able to do so. And we'll get
13 something that's more uniform in its
14 appearance throughout our village.

15 So again I thank everyone. Again we'll
16 take a brief -- a quick motion to adjourn.

17 TRUSTEE SIEGEL: I so move.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: I'll second it.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, please call the
20 roll.

21 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: Denise, you're
22 muted.

23 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND:
24 Apologies.

1 Deputy Mayor Weston.

2 DEPUTY MAYOR WESTON: Aye.

3 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
4 Jay Chagrin.

5 TRUSTEE CHAGRIN: Aye.

6 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
7 Aaron Halpern.

8 TRUSTEE HALPERN: Aye.

9 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
10 Karen Lynne Siegel.

11 TRUSTEE SIEGEL: Aye.

12 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
13 Steven Weinberg.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

15 And I note the motion -- the time of the
16 motion is 8:53 p.m.

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: It's
18 8:53 p.m.

19 So five votes in favor. The motion is
20 adopted and the meeting is closed.

21 (Continued next page.)

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MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you everyone and
good night.

(Time noted: 8:53 p.m.)

* * *
CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE
TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES OF THIS HEARING AS TRANSCRIBED
FROM AN AUDIO RECORDING, DONE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

JENNIFER DEVLIN
Court Reporter

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