

WISCASSET PLANNING BOARD  
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Present via Zoom        Jackie Lowell, Karl Olson, Peter McRae, Deb Pooler and Jason Putnam

Absent:                    Al Cohen, Tony Gatti, Lester Morse, and Steve Wallace

1. Call to Order

Chairman Karl Olson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Deb Pooler moved to approve the minutes of August 24 as written. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Maine Tasting Center – Preapplication for Tasting Center, 506 Bath Road, Map 15A, Lot 7B11

(Karl Olson recused himself in favor of Vice Chair Jason Putnam.) Architect Amanda Austin described the layout of the center on Bath Road which will include the Discovery Center, Tasting Room, Learning Center, and several outbuildings which may be utilized or removed. Andrew Gross described the concept of the Tasting Center which will be a campus dedicated to culinary experiences such as educational displays, cooking experiences, and tasting with a focus on Maine produced food and drink such as lobsters, oysters, blueberries, etc. He said state associations will be able to have displays in a museum setting, and there will be classes and a tasting room to sample various products. There will be an entrance and an exit on Old Bath Road and parking for cars and buses. All walkways will be ADA. Gross said the center will be a family venture with three full-time and four or five part-time employees and will be open from May to October.

4. Wiscasset Solar Facility – Site Plan Review application for construction of ground-mounted, 4.95 megawatt AC photo voltaic community shared solar project, 29 Jones Road, Map R-1, Lot 29

Cole Peters of Power Engineers, Inc. presented the Wiscasset Solar I, LLC application of Syncarpha Solar which has solar projects in New England, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Mexico. Unlike other solar developers who sell their facilities to investors, Syncarpha intends to be a long-term owner. The project has a 20-year contract to sell power to CMP. Homeowners will be able to buy into the project for a 10% savings in their electric bill.

The planned solar facility will be on 186 acres in the Rural District on Jones Road. The facility will be surrounded by a 7-foot chain link security fence. Erosion control measures will be taken. A stream crossing permit from the DEP has been received. There are no parking requirements, there is no pedestrian access, no buildings, and no water or sewer requirements. Peters said maintenance checks will be made twice a day. Diane Hammond, an abutter who joined the meeting via Zoom, said she supported the project.

Jason Putnam moved to find the application complete. Vote 5-0-0. A site walk by Karl Olson, Jason Putnam and Peter McRae will take place on Wednesday, September 23, at 3 p.m. A public hearing is scheduled for September 28 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

5. Other Business

The Planning Board will hold a second public hearing on September 28 on ordinance changes proposed by the Ordinance Review Committee.

6. Adjournment

Jackie Lowell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.