

June 29th, 2020

Chairman Paul Schwartz
And Members of the Planning Board
Town Hall, Town of Washington
P.O. Box 667
Millbrook, NY 12545

Re: Cary Institute Solar Project Additional Screening

Dear Chairman Schwartz and Members of the Planning Board,

On behalf of the ground-mounted solar PV system (“the Project”) located at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies (“Cary Institute”), please find further revised materials submitted in support of the Project Amended Site Plan approval application to enhance the screening, that was first submit by YSG Solar, Inc. (“YSG”) presented to the board on March 3rd, 2020.

As the Board is aware, the Project was issued a Negative Declaration and Site Plan approval on September 2nd, 2018. Since that time, YSG has obtained a Building Permit and constructed the Project. A final certificate of operation has not been issued.

The Approved Site Plan for the Project displays a 4-foot fence surrounding the project with a vegetated buffer along the Sharon Turnpike indicating 6-foot-tall trees planted 15 foot on center. YSG installed an estimated 100 Spruce trees at an average height less than 6 feet, (since a number have died, and have been removed). The security fence was not installed. In order to address requests made by the Planning Board, we initially suggested installing 112 additional trees with an approximate height of 10 feet tall, spaced between 12 – 15 feet on center.

In this third revision before the board, we have increased the number of new 10 foot tall trees to 122 spaced between 12- 15 feet on center, bringing the total number of new trees installed at the site to nearly 222. The included site maps indicate approximate locations of the trees. The installation process will involve micro-siting of the new 10 foot tall trees and will include relocating a number of the existing installed spruce trees to aid in screening.

The new trees include native varieties of Concolor Fir, Norway Spruce, and Eastern White Pine. The trees will be planted in two rows along the Sharon Turnpike. Trees are also planned along the northern and southern boundaries of the project and in the southeastern corner. Maintenance will include frequent watering until trees are dormant as well as maintaining grass area between Fir trees planted in the front lawn. The trees are expected to grow rapidly, in some cases up to two feet per year, and will expand in girth substantially. At installation they will represent an aesthetically appealing natural barrier that will substantially and materially obscure the solar array.

In addition to the vegetation, there is an option to cover the four foot tall, permitted agricultural fence for the first 5 years with a green privacy screen, which would substantially be obscured by the trees in the foreground, and will blend in with the new evergreen trees while blocking the open spaces. Lastly, as an alternative to the four foot approved fence, a seven-foot tall agricultural fence with green privacy screen could be installed, with privacy screen added for the first 5 years.

The suggested plans discussed in this letter and in the included materials represent attention to feedback from community members and other stakeholders.

We appreciate the Board’s thought and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Chaimanis, Manager
Bacon Triangle, LLC