1	PCO-11-18
2	
3	THE CITY OF WARWICK
4	STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
5	
6	CHAPTER ARTICLE
7	
8	APPENDIX A
0	ZONING
9	
10	
11	No Date
12	
13	ApprovedMayor
14	
15	AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE
16	OF THE CITY OF WARWICK, SMART ENERGY HOLDINGS, LLC
17	AND KEVIN ROSSI, PETITIONERS
18	Be it ordained by the City of Warwick:
19 20	be it braumed by the City of Warwick.
20 21	Section I. The Zoning Map and the Record Book of Lot Classifications which are a part of the
22	Zoning Ordinance of the City of Warwick are hereby amended by changing the classification of
23	the following described premises from Light Industrial (LI) to Light Industrial (LI) with waivers,
24	restrictions, conditions and stipulations.
25	
26	Lots 5 and 101 on Assessor's Plat 263 as said plat appeared in the
27	Tax Assessor's office on December 31, 2017 is hereby changed from
28	Light Industrial to Light Industrial with the following waivers,
29	restrictions, conditions and stipulations. The Lot is set forth in the
30	legal description and on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A.
31	
32	The change of zoning is subject to the following conditions, waivers and stipulations:
33	
34	1. Relief from dimensional requirements for less than required setback for an industrial use
35	from an abutting Residential District in footnote 3 of the Dimensional Table, for less-than-
36	required landscape buffer along a property line that abuts a residential district in section
37	505.1 and for fencing/screening not located on the abutting residential district property line
38	is granted but only to the extent shown on the Plan submitted by Petitioners.
39	
40	2. The use under Section 608 of the Table of Uses is limited to the solar generation of electrical
41	power.
42	2 That the Applicant shall utilize measures that minimize impacts on a sight arise successive to
43	3. That the Applicant shall utilize measures that minimize impacts on neighboring properties to the maximum extent possible. To this and, the Applicant shall submit to the Planning Poord
44	the maximum extent possible. To this end, the Applicant shall submit to the Planning Board,

a detailed report of the operational characteristics of the solar park, including the key features of the inverters (overall size, height and noise level which shall be limited to 55db) and the means and methods planned to minimize or avoid off-premises impacts to the abutting residential and recreational uses. In addition to addressing noise concerns, the report shall include security provisions to prevent unauthorized access, emergency access provisions, security lighting, and any proposed identification signage.

4. That the proposed transformers/inverters for the solar farm shall maintain a noise level at 8 or below 55dB and there shall be no greater than a 3dB change in amplitude (the 9 minimum audible difference perceptible to the average person) measured along the entire 10 southern property line which abuts the existing residential properties. If necessary, and at 11 the City's request, the petitioner shall be responsible to fund and submit a *noise study*, 12 conducted by an environmental professional, measuring pre-background sound with the 13 post construction as-built conditions that illustrates adherence with this stipulation. Said 14 study shall be submitted to the Building Inspector and Administrative Officer to the 15 Planning Board within 90 days of the City's request. 16

- 5. That the solar park shall be maintained on a regular basis by the owner/operator and shall be cleared of debris, weeds, trash, etc. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs and maintaining the integrity of fencing. The equipment shall be maintained in good repair and working order. Malfunctioning or inoperable equipment shall be removed from the property immediately and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
  - 6. That, a sign shall be posted on the facility and shall display the name of the owner and or operator of the facility and provide a twenty-four (24) hour emergency contact number.
  - 7. That the solar park shall not be used for displaying any advertising.
- 8. That the clearing of natural vegetation shall be strictly limited to what is necessary for the construction, optimal operation, and maintenance of the solar park.

9. That at the abandonment of the use of this solar park, all equipment shall be removed from 33 the site, no more than six months after the date of discontinued operations. The 34 owner/operator shall notify the building official of the proposed date of discontinued 35 operation and plans for removal. At a minimum, decommissioning shall consist of: removal 36 of all solar park related structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from 37 the site; disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with applicable disposal 38 regulations; and stabilization and revegetation of the site as necessary to prevent erosion and 39 restore the natural habitat. 40

- 10. That the Applicant shall post a bond, in an amount to be determined by the Administrative
  Officer, to provide a guarantee that the facility will be promptly removed after it reaches the
  end of its useful life.
- 45

41

7

17

18

19

20

21

22

23 24

25

26 27

28 29

30

31 32

1	11. That there shall by strict compliance with the Final Plan, as approved by the Planning Board.
2	Any changes to the approved plan shall require review by the Administrative Officer and/or
3	the Planning Board.
4	
5	
6	Section II. The Clerk of the Zoning Board of Review is hereby authorized and directed to cause said
7	changes to be made on the Zoning Map and the Record Book of Lot Classifications.
8	
9	Section III. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as prescribed by law.
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN GALLUCCI
20	
21	
22	COMMITTEE: LAND USE
23	
24	



**Petition Application** 

from

Smart Energy Holdings

for Zoning Petition

for

# Plat No. 263 Lots 005 & 101 at 701 East Avenue Ward 8,

from

Light Industrial, to Light Industrial with Waivers for use Code 608 Electrical Power Plant; construction, and operation of a Solar Energy Farm.

#### PETITION REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WARWICK

To the Honorable City Council of Warwick:

Respectfully represent: Smart Energy Holdings, LLC

who furnishes the following information in connection with (his-her) request for an Amendment to the Zoning Law.

Amendment to the Zoning Law:

1.	Ownership of Premises:	Kevin Rossi
		(Name) 18 Rossi Street
	_	(Address) Warwick, RI

(Furnish name of title owner of property and address of owner)

2. Description of Premises: Plat No. <u>263</u> Lot(s) No. 005 and 101

Street East Avenue Ward 8

(Furnish Assessor's Plat and Lot numbers and Name of Street and Ward Number)

3. Present Zoning Classification: Light Industrial (LI)

- 4. Zoning Change Requested Light Industrial (LI), with waivers for Use Code 608. Electric Power Plant
- 5. Reasons for Proposed Change: \_

To allow the construction and operation of a solar energy farm

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that the Zoning Law be amended by changing the Zoning Classification of the above described premises from\_\_\_\_\_

Ligt Industrial (LI) to Light Industrial (LI), with waivers for Use Code 608. Electric Power Plant

Respectfully Submitted,

(Signature of Owner and Petitioner)

Rossi Kevin Rossi

Owner Signed by Thomas Donnelly on behalf of Kevin Rossi

Thomas Donnelly Smart Energy Holdings

Petitioner

# Legal Description

The following description describes those two parcels of land, being lot 101 and lot 5 on Warwick Assessor's Plat 263. Lot 101 is on the northerly side of East Avenue, and lot 5 abuts lot 1 and is northerly of East Avenue in the City of Warwick, County of Kent, State of Rhode Island.

#### Lot 101

Beginning at an existing granite RI highway bound which is eight and 50/100 (8.50) feet westerly of and opposite Centerline Baseline Sta. 468+34.92 as shown on that plan entitled "Plan of Land for Kevin Rossi Location East Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island 1"=60' Feb. 9, 2016 by Boyer Associates", said beginning is the northeasterly corner of the hereinafter described parcel also shown on that plan of land entitled "Land in Warwick, R.I. to be Conveyed to Nicholas E. Rossi by Providence & Worcester R.R. by Frank Pezzullo, Jr., R.S.L. scale - 1"=100' May 1983"; thence running in a general southerly direction along an arc of a curve having a radius of twenty-two thousand nine hundred nine and 88/100 (22,909.88) feet an arc distance of four hundred fifty and 00/100 (450.00) feet bounded easterly in part by land belonging to the State of RI & Providence Plantations and in part by said East Avenue to a point in said East Avenue; thence turning a chord angle of 61°-42'-56" and running in a general westerly direction bounded southerly by said East Avenue a distance of sixty-five and 00/100 (65.00) feet to a point; thence turning an interior angle of 111°-58'-12" and running in a general northerly direction bounded westerly in part by said East Avenue and in part by land n/f belonging to Joseph & Annmarie Casimiro a distance of two hundred eighty-five and 05/100 (285.05) feet to an iron pin; thence turning an interior angle of 251°-47'-00" and running in a general westerly direction bounded southerly in part by said Casimiro land and in part by land n/f belonging toAnna Vizzaccaro, Trustee, a distance of thirty and 00/100 (30.00) feet to an iron pin; thence turning an interior angle of 110°-28'-38" and running in a general northerly direction bounded westerly by other land belonging to Kevin Rossi, being A. P. 263, lot 5, a distance of one hundred twenty-three and 23/100 (123.23) feet to an existing granite RI highway bound, said existing granite RI highway bound being fifty-two and 97/100 (52.97) feet westerly of and opposite Centerline Baseline Sta. called ahead 468+34.92 as shown on said RI Highway Plat No. 2410; thence turning an interior angle of 94°-37'-00" and running in a general easterly direction bounded northerly by said State of RI & Providence Plantations land a distance of fortyfour and 47/100 (44.47) feet to the existing granite RI highway bound at the point and place of beginning. Said last described line forms a chord angle of 89°-26'-14" with first described line.

Said parcel contains 0.45 acres.

Lot 5

That certain parcel of land situated northerly of East Avenue in the City of Warwick, County of Kent, State of Rhode Island, bounded and described as follows:

3-19-18 R983

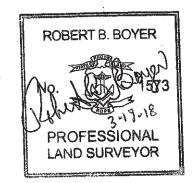
Beginning at an iron pin set in the northerly line of land n/f belonging to Anna Vizzaccaro, Trustee, said iron pin also being thirty and 00/100 (30.00) feet westerly of an iron pin set at the northeasterly corner of land n/f belonging to Joseph & Annmarie Casimiro; thence running in a general westerly direction bounded southerly by said Vizzaccaro land a distance of thirty-nine and 73/100 (39.73) feet to a point; thence turning an interior angle of 176°-28'-28" and continuing in a general westerly direction bounded southerly in part by land n/f belonging to West Bay Community Action, Inc., and in part by land n/f belonging to Henry T. Cruciani et als a distance of ninety-five and 31/100 (95.31) feet to a point; thence turning an interior angle of 180°-28'-45" and continuing in a general westerly direction bounded southerly in part by land n/f belonging to Paul & Cynthia LaFrance and in part by land n/f belonging to Anthony & Angela M. Pallotta a distance of two hundred two and 02/100 (202.02) feet to an existing granite RI highway bound; thence turning an interior angle of 180°-00'-00" and continuing in a general westerly direction and running along the easterly line as shown of RI Highway Plat No. 2727 bounded southerly by State of RI & Providence Plantations land a distance of one hundred ninety and 00/100 (190.00) feet to an existing granite RI highway bound; thence continuing westerly in the same line a distance of thirteen and 00/100 (13.00) feet to the edge of the Pawtuxet River.

Thence turning an interior survey tie line of 95°-02'-43" and running a distance of one thousand two hundred sixty-one and 34/100 (1,261.34) feet to a point in the easterly bank of said Pawtuxet River at the most northerly point of the herein described parcel; the distance along the easterly river bank, which is the westerly property line of the herein described parcel, is one thousand two hundred ninety feet, more or less (1,290'+/-) as shown on that plan entitled "Plan of Land for Kevin Rossi Location East Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island 1"=60' Feb. 9, 2016 by Boyer Associates"; thence turning an interior tie line angle of 26°-09'-32" and running in a general southerly direction a distance of ninety-five and 00/100 (95.00) feet to an existing granite RI highway bound fifty-five and 00/100 (55.00) feet westerly of and opposite Centerline Baseline Sta. 456+06.00 as shown on said RI Highway Plat No. 2410; thence turning an interior angle of 179°-08'-12" and continuing in a general southerly direction along an arc of a curve having a radius of twenty-two thousand eight hundred sixty-three and 38/100 (22,863.38) feet an arc distance of six hundred eighty-nine and 23/100 (689.23) feet to another existing granite RI highway bound being fifty-five and 00/100 (55.00) feet westerly of and opposite Centerline Baseline Sta. 462+96.89, said last two courses being bounded easterly, respectively, by said State of RI & Providence Plantations land; thence turning an interior chord angle of 178°-41'-09" and continuing in a general southerly direction a distance of five hundred thirty-three and 58/100 (533.58) feet to an existing granite RI highway bound, said RI highway bound is fifty-two and 97/100 (52.97) feet westerly of and opposite Centerline Baseline Sta. 468+34.92 as called ahead on said RI highway plat No. 2410, said existing granite RI highway bound is the northwesterly corner of lot 101; thence turning an interior angle of 174°-29'-49" and continuing in a general southerly direction bounded easterly by said lot 101 a distance of one hundred twenty-three and 23/100 (123.23) feet to the iron pin at the point and place of beginning. Said last described line forms an interior angle of 69°-31'-22".

3.19-18

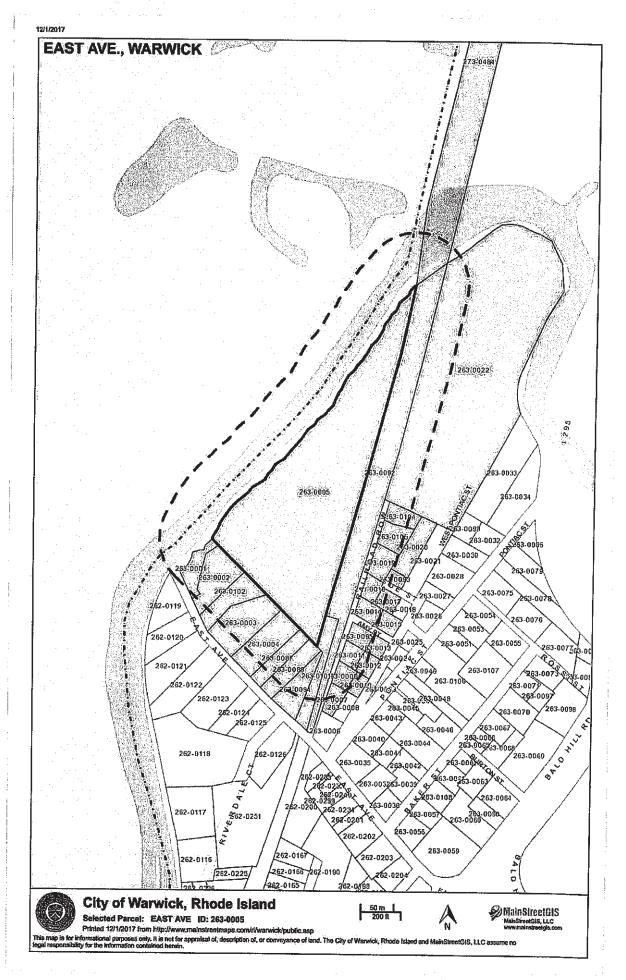
Said parcel contains 8.01 acres, more or less.

Said parcel is subject to easements of record.

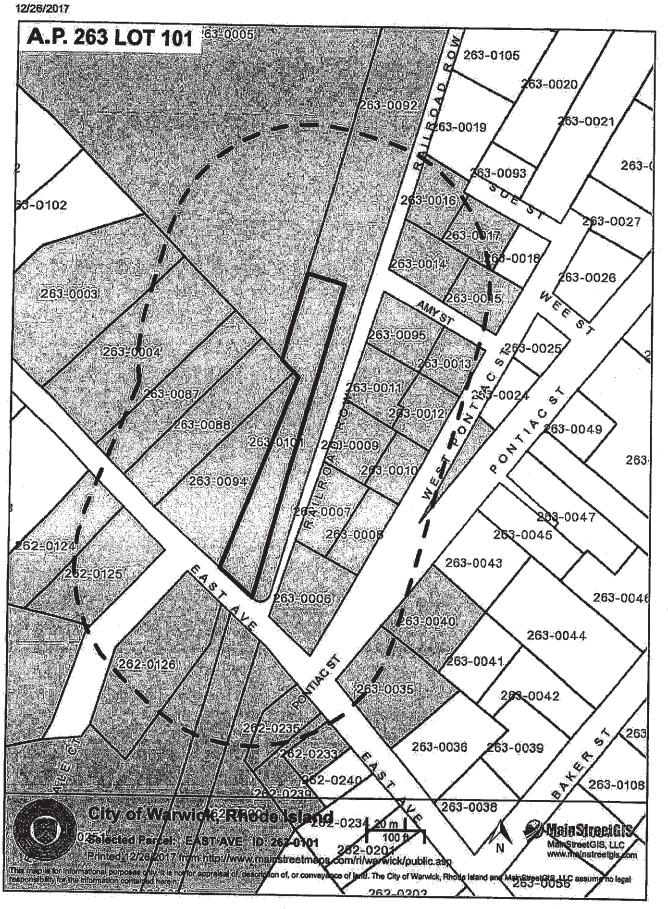


3-19-18 (DPD

### ABUTTERS MAP A.P. 263 LOT 005



### **ABUTTERS MAP**



. . .

# ABUTTERS

Parcel ID: 262-0118-0000 CAITO, KENNETH 21 RIVERDALE CT WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0007-0000 MORGAN H. MALONE 319 STEPHEN FRENCH ROAD \$WANSEA, MA 02777

Parcel ID: 262-0200-0000 DAY, MICHAEL DREW-DAY, JESSICA 821 MOORESFIELD RD SAUNDERSTOWN RI 02874

Parcel ID: 262-0126-0000 RIVERDALE PROPERTIES LLC 700 EAST AVE WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0010-0000 RAINVILLE, ANDREW P RAINVILLE, DENISE A 71 A GENE ALLEN RD FOSTER RI 02857

Parcel ID: 263-0015-0000 CENTRACCHIO, DOMENIC CENTRACCHIO, FILOMENA 57 WEST PONTIAC ST WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0011-0000 MORROCCO REALTY LLC P O BOX 8385 CRANSTON RI 02920

Parcel ID: 263-0035-0000 EAST AVE LLC 61 DEWEY ST SUITE D WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0095-0000 MORROCCO REALTY LLC P O BOX 8385 CRANSTON RI 02920 Parcel ID: 263-0087-0000 WESTBAY COMMUNITY ACTION INC 729 EAST AVE WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 262-0125-0000 S&S LLC 2289 FLAT RIVER ROAD COVENTRY RI 02816

Parcel ID: 263-0003-0000 LAFRANCE, CYNTHIA 81 EDMOND DR WARWICK, RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0001-0000 RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2 CAPITAL HILL RM 317 PROVIDENCE RI 02903

Parcel ID: 263-0009-0000 CRUCIANI HENRY T LIFE ESTATE LAFRANCE, CYNTHIA L 30 LINDEN LN WEST GREENWICH RI 02817

Parcel ID: 263-0012-0000 GUGLIELMO, ANTHONY GUGLIELMO, PEGGY ANN 44 GLENDALE DR WEST WARWICK RI 02893

Parcel ID: 263-0017-0000 THIBAULT, JACELYN 12 SUE ST WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0040-0000 TEDESCHI ERNEST J JR TEDESCHI, DEBORAH I 126 PONTIAC ST WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0016-0000 BLAIR, LISA M BLAIR, WILLIAM R 34 RAILROAD ROW WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0092-0000 STATE OF R I & PROV PLANTATIONS 2 CAPITOL HILL 317 STATE OFFICE BLDG PROVIDENCE RI 02903 Parcel ID: 263-0094-0000 CASIMIRO, JOSEPH CASIMIRO, ANNMARIE 223 HOWARD AVE HOPE RI 02831

Parcel ID: 263-0006-0000 CORDEIRO YOLANDA LIFE ESTATE CANTONE, RAYMOND PO BOX 1328 WEST WARWICK RI 02893

Parcel ID: 263-0004-0000 CRUCIANI, HENRY & MARTHA LIFE ESTATE, CYNTHIA LAFRANCE 81 EDMOND DR WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0002-0000 RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2 CAPITAL HILL RM 317 PROVIDENCE RI 02903

Parcel ID: 262-0233-0000 LITTHISACK, SOUKY V 1723 CRANSTON ST CRANSTON RI 02920

Parcel ID: 263-0014-0000 NARCOVICH, DONNA 42 RAIĹROAD ROW WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0088-0000 VIZZACCARO ANNA TRUSTEE WILLIAMS MARIA TRUSTEE 42 AZALEA DR CRANSTON RI 02921

Parcel ID: 263-0023-0000 IZZO, MATTHEW J 223 GLEN HILLS DR CRANSTON RI 02920

Parcel ID: 263-0013-0000 NULPH, RYAN P 65 WEST PONTIAC ST WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 262-0235-0000 CRYSTAL SWAN INC 20 TULLY WAY NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852 Parcel ID: 262-0251-0000 SBJ RESCH FAMILY PARTNERSHIP LTD 2900 7TH AVENUE TAMPA FL 33605

Parcel ID: 262-0124-0000 JOHNSON WAYNE S JR PINEDA RACHEL J/T 726 EAST AVE WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0019-0000 LIMA, STEVEN C MENDONCA, STEPHANIE M 24 RAILROAD ROW WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0105-0000 SANDERS, JEROME D SANDERS, MISCHELLE A 12 RAILROAD ROW WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 262-0239-0000 LITTHISACK, SOUKY V 1723 CRANSTON ST CRANSTON RI 02920

Parcel ID: 040-0340 Angelo A. Padula 26 Crossland Road West Warwick, RI 02893

ROSSI, KEVIN 18 ROSSI STREET WARWICK RI 02886 Parcel ID: 263-0008-0000 SANTILLI, JUDITH J 89 WEST PONTIAC ST WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 273-0484-0000 STATE OF R I & PROV PLANTATIONS 2 CAPITOL HILL 317 STATE OFFICE BLDG PROVIDENCE RI 02903

Parcel ID: 263-0020-0000 SUE STREET LLC 47 HIGHLAND AVE COVENTRY, RI 02816

Parcel ID: 263-0102-0000 PALLOTTA, ANTHONY PALLOTTA, ANGELA M 755 EAST AVE WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 040-0048 ADA Properties, LLC 35 Red Barn Court CRANSTON RI 02920

Parcel ID: 040-0365 Leonard A. Reali & Carol A. Reali 1375 New London Ave. Cranston, RI 02920

K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI 33 COLLEGE HILL ROAD SUITE 15-E WARWICK, RI 02886 Parcel ID: 262-0231-0000 STATE OF R I & PROV PLANTATIONS 2 CAPITOL HILL 317 STATE OFFICE BLDG PROVIDENCE RI 02903

Parcel ID: 263-0104-0000 MELINO, ROBERT J 4 RAILROAD ROW WARWICK RI 02886

Parcel ID: 263-0093-0000 GREEN ROOM PROPERTIES 47 HIGHLAND AVE. COVENTRY, RI 02816

TOWN OF WEST WARWICK ATTN: TOWN MANAGER 1170 MAIN STREET WEST WARWICK, RI 02893

Parcel ID: 040-0338 David Kennedy 4 Edmund Circle Warwick, RI 02886

SMART ENERGY HOLDINGS, LLC ATTN: BOB PATTON 22 LOWER FALLS ROAD FALMOUTH, MAINE 04105

Parcel ID: 263-0022-0000 CITY OF WARWICK 3275 POST RD WARWICK RI 02886

MAR 29 2018

William DePasquale, Jr., AICP Planning Director



Scott Avedisian Mayor

#### CITY OF WARWICK Planning Department 3275 Post Road, Annex; Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. (401) 738-2009

#### MEMORANDUM East Avenue Solar Park

TO:

Joseph Solomon, Council President Warwick City Council Members Lyn Pagliarini, City Clerk

FROM: William J. DePasquale, Jr. AICP Administrative Officer Planning Director

**DATE:** March 29, 2018

SUBJECT:Planning Board Recommendation, Request for a Zone ChangeTo allow for an Electric Power Plant (Use Code 608),for the Solar Generation of Electric Power within a Light Industrial Zone.Assessor's Plat 263, Assessor's Lots 05 and 101

APPLICANT: Smart Energy Holdings, LLC Kevin Rossi, Property Owner

**ZONING DISTRICT**: Light Industrial (LI)

**PROPOSED ZONE:**Light Industrial (LI), with authorization for Use Code 608. Electric<br/>Power Plant (limited to the solar generation of power), with<br/>dimensional waivers from Warwick Zoning Ordinance, Dimensional<br/>Table, Footnote (3), for less-than-required setback for an<br/>industrial use from an abutting Residential District, and Section 505.1<br/>Minimum landscaped buffer; (B) for less-than-required landscape<br/>buffer along a property line that abuts a residential district; and (C) for<br/>fencing/screening not located on the abutting residential district<br/>property line.

LAND AREA: WARD: 8.45+/-acres 8

#### BACKGROUND

The Applicant is requesting City Council approval for a modification to the existing zoning on the site (Light Industrial), to allow <u>Use Code 608. Electric Power Plant</u>, for solar generation of electric power only, and dimensional waivers from <u>Warwick Zoning Ordinance</u>, <u>Dimensional Table</u>, <u>Footnote (3)</u>, for less-than-required setback for an industrial use from an abutting Residential District, and <u>Section 505.1 Minimum landscaped buffer</u>; (B) for less-than-required landscape buffer along a property line that abuts a residential district; and (C) for fencing/screening not located on the abutting residential district property line.

The Applicant is proposing to merge two (2) existing lots, totaling 8.45+/- acres, to provide for the development of a 500 kilowatt solar park with approximately 40 rows and a total of 880 photovoltaic modules (solar panels) for the generation of electric power. The project will be constructed in two (2) phases, each phase will consist of the construction of 440 solar panels. The total solar park build-out will occupy approximately 2 acres of the 8.45+/- acre site.

The parcel is currently zoned Light Industrial (LI). <u>Use Code 608. Electric Power Plant</u> is not an allowed use (No) in a LI zone. The site abuts land owned by the State of Rhode Island to the East (the West Bay Bicycle Path), is bounded by the Pawtuxet River to the North and West, and abuts a Residential zone to the South. The project site is currently undeveloped, with topography that slopes toward the Pawtuxet River. Access to the development will be proved via a paved driveway on East Avenue. The site will be accessed for routine maintenance and in case of emergency.

#### **FINDINGS OF THE BOARD**

At the March 14, 2018 meeting of the Warwick Planning Board, this project received Master Plan Approval (copy attached).

At the March 14, 2018 meeting, the Planning Board found the proposed zoning amendment to be generally consistent with Article 1 "Purposes and General Statements of the City's <u>Development</u> <u>Review Regulations</u>, and:

1. That the proposal is generally consistent with the City of Warwick, <u>Comprehensive Plan</u> <u>2033</u>, (Comprehensive Plan), <u>Part V, Sustainable Systems</u> which calls for regulations to support renewable energy installations; and to choose sustainable materials, methods and practices, when possible.

That <u>Part V, Sustainable Systems</u>, states that "access to affordable, clean energy is critical to the City and its residents. Energy use, cost and conservation are integrally tied to many of the traditional elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including housing, transportation, economic development, community services, and natural resources...Energy conservation and efficiency are cost effective and reduce air pollution and negative impacts on other natural resources. Techniques for promoting energy demand reduction and efficiency include....the use of renewable and alternative energy sources."

That Goal 1, of <u>Part V</u>, <u>Sustainable Systems</u> states that the City shall implement practices to conserve energy and use renewable energy.

2. That the following municipal Department Heads and City Commissions, or their designated staff, have reviewed the proposal and have no objections or stipulations: Public Works/Engineering, Sewer, Building, Water, Fire, Land Trust, Harbor Commission, Cemetery Commission, and Historic District Commission.

The Planning Board also found the proposed zoning amendment to be generally consistent with the following purposes of the City's Zoning Ordinance, as presented in Section 100, "Title and Purpose."

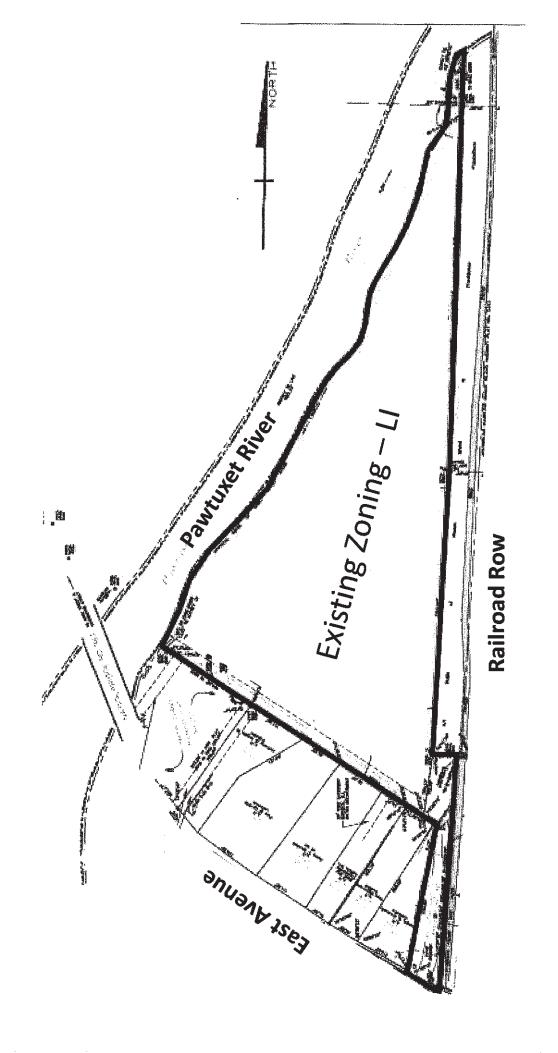
- 103.1 Promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the City.
- 103.2 Provides for a range of uses and intensities of use appropriate to the character of the City and reflect current and future needs.
- 103.3 Provides for orderly growth and development, which recognizes:
  - A.) The goals and patterns of land use contained in the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Warwick.
  - E.) The availability and capacity of existing and planned public and/or private services and facilities;
  - F.) The use of innovative development regulations and techniques.
- 103.10 Promote a high level of quality in design in the development of private and public facilities.
- 103.11 Promote the implementation of the Warwick Comprehensive community plan, as amended.

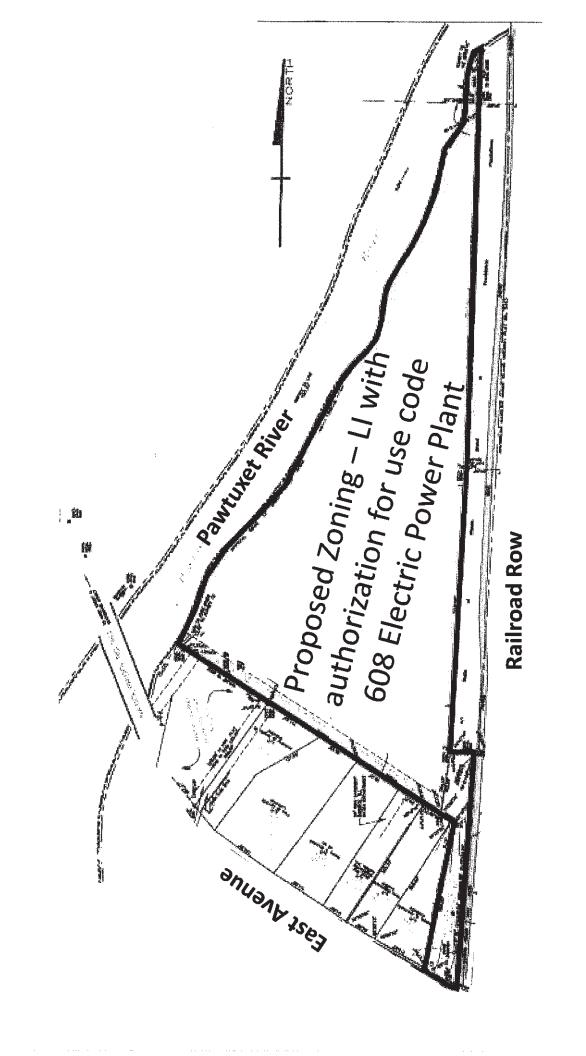
#### PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

On a motion made by Mr. Desmarais and seconded by Mr. Bergantino, the Planning Board voted eight (8) in favor, with none opposed, to forward a favorable recommendation to the Warwick City Council for the requested zone change, with the following stipulations:

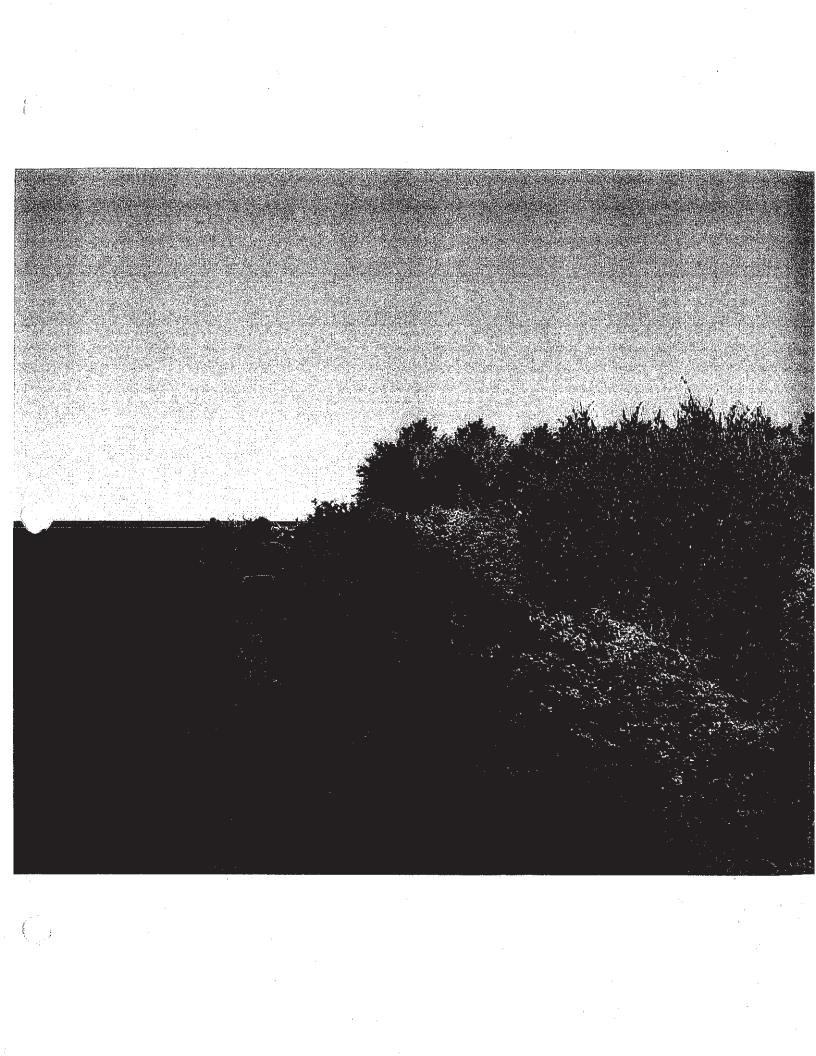
- 1. That the use shall be restricted to the solar generation of electric power.
- 2. That the Applicant shall utilize measures that minimize impacts on neighboring properties to the maximum extent possible. To this end, the Applicant shall submit to the Planning Board, a detailed report of the operational characteristics of the solar park, including the key features of the inverters (overall size, height and noise level which shall be limited to 55db) and the means and methods planned to minimize or avoid off-premises impacts to the abutting residential and recreational uses. In addition to addressing noise concerns, the report shall include security provisions to prevent unauthorized access, emergency access provisions, security lighting, and any proposed identification signage.

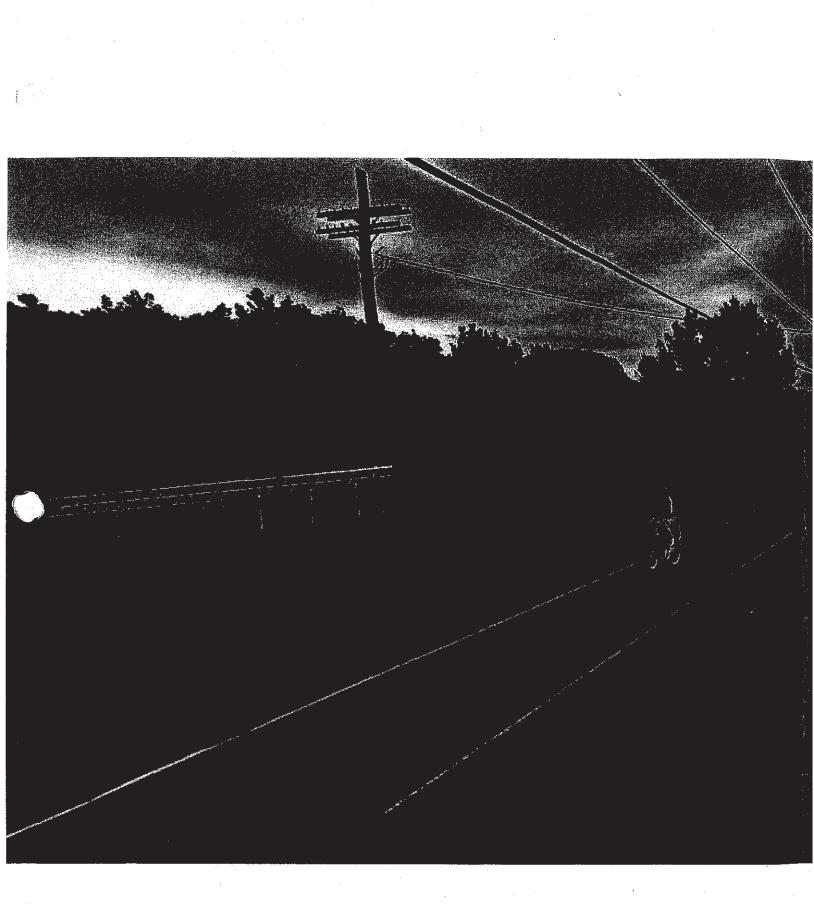
- 3. That the proposed transformers/inverters for the solar farm shall maintain a noise level at or below 55dB and there shall be no greater than a 3dB change in amplitude (the minimum audible difference perceptible to the average person) measured along the entire southern property line which abuts the existing residential properties. If necessary, and at the City's request, the petitioner shall be responsible to fund and submit a *noise study*, conducted by an environmental professional, measuring pre-background sound with the post construction asbuilt conditions that illustrates adherence with this stipulation. Said study shall be submitted to the Building Inspector and Administrative Officer to the Planning Board within 90 days of the City's request.
- 4. That the solar park shall be maintained on a regular basis by the owner/operator and shall be cleared of debris, weeds, trash, etc. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs and maintaining the integrity of fencing. The equipment shall be maintained in good repair and working order. Malfunctioning or inoperable equipment shall be removed from the property immediately and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- 5. That, a sign shall be posted on the facility and shall display the name of the owner and or operator of the facility and provide a twenty-four (24) hour emergency contact number.
- 6. That the solar park shall not be used for displaying any advertising.
- 7. That the clearing of natural vegetation shall be strictly limited to what is necessary for the construction, optimal operation, and maintenance of the solar park.
- 8. That at the abandonment of the use of this solar park, all equipment shall be removed from the site, no more than six months after the date of discontinued operations. The owner/operator shall notify the building official of the proposed date of discontinued operation and plans for removal. At a minimum, decommissioning shall consist of: removal of all solar park related structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the site; disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with applicable disposal regulations; and stabilization and revegetation of the site as necessary to prevent erosion and restore the natural habitat.
- 9. That the Applicant shall post a bond, in an amount to be determined by the Administrative Officer, to provide a guarantee that the facility will be promptly removed after it reaches the end of its useful life.
- 10. That there shall by strict compliance with the Final Plan, as approved by the Planning Board. Any changes to the approved plan shall require review by the Administrative Officer and/or the Planning Board.













 $\boxtimes$ 

Michael Matteson Fire Marshal Bureau of Fire Prevention

Memo To

Trish Reynolds, Business Development Plannner

From Michael Matteson, Fire Marshal

**Date** March 05, 2018

Re Major Land Development Project/Master Plan Approval/Administrative

Subdivision and Recommendation for a Zone Change (with waiver)

Assessor's Plat 263, LotS 005 and 101; 701 EAST AVENUE

No objections at this time.

The following minimum requirements must be provided regarding streets, roadways, turning and parking in proposed private developments and complexes:

- An adequate number of fire hydrants spaced 300 Ft. apart and providing a minimum of 1000 GPM. Sprinklered buildings require a hydrant within 100 Ft. of the Fire Department Connection (FDC).
- All two way travel lanes to have a minimum of 24 Ft. of unobstructed width and an unobstructed vertical clearance of 13'6" to allow for unimpeded access by fire apparatus.
- All corners shall be negotiable by vehicles having an outer tire turning radius of 50 Ft., Left or Right.
- Dead-end roads longer than 150 Ft. must provide turning capabilities for fire apparatus per NFPA 1 (RIFC), 2012 Edition.

Notes: SEE ATTACHED PAGE 2

# There shall be no architectural, landscaping or natural barriers to prevent easy access of fire apparatus.

111 Veterans Memorial Drive Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. 401-468-4050 Fax 401-468-4051



Michael Matteson Fire Marshal Bureau of Fire Prevention

The proposed development outlined in MASTER PLAN NARRATIVE FOR A SOLAR PARK AT 701 EAST AVENUE submitted on January 12, 2018 has been reviewed and approved with the following conditions as outlined in the report:

- A minimum 12' gravel access drive from East Avenue.
- Electrical equipment areas and turnaround areas will be provided for maintenance vehicles, sewer and fire apparatus for access.
- A 6' high chain link fence is proposed with gated access from East Avenue.
- An Access Box (Knox or similar) will be coordinated with the Local Fire Department AHJ

#### The following conditions/proposals require additional information:

Disturbed ground surface areas located between and below proposed panels will be loamed and seeded with a low maintenance grass - Type of grass? Average height for the average grow season and at what height will it be a risk of ignition from the electrical system proposed? May require additional cuttings during the grow seasons.

a) Does the proposal meet NFPA 1:11.12.3.2\* - Noncombustible Base. A gravel base or other Non-combustible base acceptable to the AHJ shall be installed and maintained under and around the installation.

A.11.12.3.2 - Though dirt with minor growth is not considered noncombustible, the AHJ might approve dirt bases as long as any growth is maintained under and around the installation to reduce the risk of ignition from the electrical system. This could be a serious consideration for large ground-mounted photovoltaic systems. Not only should the base be considered under the systems, but also around the systems to the point that the risk of fire from growth or other ignition sources will be reduced.

Before issuance of any permits for the project, the Warwick Fire Department will review all plans for compliance with all life safety codes and issues as outlined in NFPA 1 - FIRE CODE, 2012 Edition and NFPA 70 - National Electrical Code, 2011 edition: ARTICLE 690 -Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems and ARTICLE 490 - Equipment, Over 600 Volts, Nominal.

There shall be no architectural, landscaping or natural barriers to prevent easy access of fire apparatus.

111 Veterans Memorial Drive Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. 401-468-4050 Fax 401-468-4051

# **MEMO**

To: Trish Reynolds, Principal Planer

From: Daniel O'Rourke, Chief of Water Division Ver

Date: January 16, 2018

Re: Assessor Plat 263, Lots 005, 101, 701 East Avenue

We have reviewed the proposed plan for the development of the "Solar Array". As you are aware, there is a thirty foot easement for our existing 42" transmission water main. Any placement of fencing or shrubbery must be far enough away as to not interfere with the integrity of the water line.

In addition, please be advised that should the need arise for water for the site(s), the area is serviced by Kent County Water Authority.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at extension 9734.

Cc: Brad Mellen- Water Division Deb Cardoso- Water Division

1

RICHARD J. CRENCA DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



SCOTT AVEDISIAN MAYOR

CITY OF WARWICK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 925 SANDY LANE • WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02889 TEL (401) 738-2003 • FAX (401) 732-5208

- TO: William DePasquale, Director of Planning
- FROM: Eric Hindinger DPW Engineering

DATE: 28 February 2018

RE: 18-004 Solar Array ~ East Ave (WDPW No. 18-004) East Ave Master Plan – Major Land Development AP 263 / Lots 5 & 101

This office has reviewed the Master Plan submission for the Major Land Development for the referenced project and finds that the submission substantially conforms to the DPW's requirements. However, the following comments/recommendations should be incorporated into future submissions:

- 1. All plans submitted must comply with "Rules and Regulations for Professional Land Surveying in the State of Rhode Island Effective Date: November 25, 2015". All survey monumentation must be set prior to recording of the Final Subdivision Plan.
- 2. The design for the Stormwater Collection system must meet the requirements of the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual, December 2010. Design Engineer must meet with the City of Warwick DPW Engineering Staff to review the proposed drainage system prior to submission to RI DEM or RI DOT.
- 3. The Operation and Maintenance Plan for the proposed stormwater collection system must be included in the Preliminary submission to the Planning Department.
- 4. All state permits, including but not limited to RI DEM and RI DOT Physical Alteration Permit, must be obtained prior to Preliminary Plan submission.

Please call me @ 738-2000 x6537 if you have any questions regarding this memorandum.

Note that these comments are from the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works. Other City Departments may have comments referring to this submission. Please check with the necessary agencies to ensure that all required elements have been satisfied prior to proceeding further. The DPW reserves the right to revise or revoke our comments or opinions in the event that subsequent examination reveals any data indicated on any plan, form, sketch, etc. to be incorrect or additional information is introduced that necessitates revisions.

CC: Eric Earls, City Engineer Marcus Channell, City Surveyor Lidia Cruz Abreu, Planning Department

#### **Reynolds Patricia**

From: Sent: To: Subject: DeCorte Alfred T Thursday, February 01, 2018 2:07 PM Reynolds Patricia Solar Farm 701 East Ave.

Trish,

I have reviewed the plans submitted and offer the following comments,

- 1. It appears that the proposed project conforms to the required zoning setbacks for principle use.
- 2. The greatest concern, which will be addressed during permitting if the project is approved, is the close proximity to the delineated AE Flood zone line with the installation of the solar panels. Some of the ballasted racking system will have to be designed so as not to be carried away by the current during flood stage.
- 3. A Class 1 survey will be required at the time of permitting.
- 4. What are the sound levels of the inverters? The adjacent residences may be affected by the noise.

Alfred 7. DeCorte

DIRECTOR OF CODE ENFORCEMENT/BUILDING OFFICIAL CITY OF WARWICK 3275 Post Road WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886 William DePasquale, Jr., AICP **Planning Director** 



Scott Avedisian Mayor

#### CITY OF WARWICK **Planning Department** 3275 Post Road, Annex; Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. (401) 738-2009

#### **BOARD AND COMMISSION**

Review

TO: Historic District Commission

FROM: Trish Reynolds, Principal Planner **Planning Department** 

DATE:	March 5, 2018
APPLICANT:	Smart Energy Holdings, LLC
SUBJECT:	Zone Change

PROPOSED ZONE CHANGE: From Light Industrial to:

Light Industrial, with a waiver for Use Code 608. Electric Power Plant, exclusively for the generation of Solar Power, and dimensional waivers from Warwick Zoning Ordinance, Dimensional Table, Footnote (3) for less than required setback for an industrial use from an abutting Residential district, and Section 505. Landscaping and screening requirements for nonresidential uses, (B) and (C), for less than requirement landscape screening due to the location of an existing easement, and screening fencing to be located off the property line.

The Applicant is proposing to merge two (2) lots, to provide for the development of a 500 kilowatt solar park. The solar park will be constructed in two phases and will occupy 2 acers of the total 8.45 acres. The parcel is in a flood zone, the proposal is located in the upland area.

Date: 3/5/18 Signature: Jusan Baker Historic District Commission

Comment!

This project is not uithin any B Wanvick's three historic districts.

William DePasquale, Jr., AICP Planning Director



Scott Avedisian Mayor

#### CITY OF WARWICK Planning Department 3275 Post Road, Annex; Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. (401) 738-2009

# **BOARD AND COMMISSION**

Review

Warwick Land Trust
Warwick Cemetery Commission
<b>Conservation Commission</b>

FROM: Trish Reynolds, Principal Planner Planning Department

DATE:	March 5, 2018
APPLICANT:	Smart Energy Holdings, LLC
SUBJECT:	Zone Change

#### PROPOSED ZONE CHANGE:

From Light Industrial to

Light Industrial, with a waiver for Use Code 608. Electric Power Plant, exclusively for the general of Solar Power, and dimensional waivers from <u>Warwick Zoning Ordinance, Dimensional Table, Footnote (3)</u> for less than required setback for an industrial use from an abutting Residential district, and Section 505. Landscaping and screening requirements for nonresidential uses, (B) and (C), for less than requirement landscape screening due to the location of an existing easement, and screening fencing to be located off the property line.

The Applicant is proposing to merge two (2) lots, to provide for the development of a 500 kilowatt solar park. The solar park will be constructed in two phases and will occupy 2 acers of the total 8.45 acres. The parcel is in a flood zone, the proposal is located in the upland area.

Date: 3/5/18 Signature: Susan Cabecenias Land Trust Date: 3/5/18 Signature: Susan Cabecenias Cemetery Commission Date: 3/5/18 Signature: Susan Cabecenias **Conservation Commission** 



SCOTT AVEDISIAN

JUDY WILD

TO Janine Burke – Sewer Allan Booth - Tax Assessor Kyla Jones - Tax Collector Col. Stephen McCartney -Police

FROM:	Lyn Pagliarini	City Clerk

Date: March 29, 2018

Subject: Zone Change Application

Subject: Zone Change 701 East Avenue

Name of Applicant:

Smart Energy Holdings, LLC – Kevin Rossi property owner

Plat: Lots: Address: 263 005 and 101 701 East Avenue

Please review and comment on the attached application and return to the Clerk's office no later than <u>April 2, 2018</u>. Your comments are required so that the City Council may consider this application on <u>April 23, 2018</u>. Should you have "no comment" on the attached plan, you are still required to sign off on this memo with a notation that your department does not have any concerns with the application.

Comments:

NO OBJECTIONS TO ZONE CHANGE.

Date:

For use by Tax Assessor/Collector and Planning Director only (if applicable):

Assessed value of property:\_\_\_

Annual taxes:

Appraised value of property:

Director's signature:



SCOTT AVEDISIAN MAYOR

> JUDY WILD CITY CLERK

10;	Janine Burk <u>e – Sewer</u>
	Allan Booth - Tax Assessor
	Allan Doold Tax Abscasol

Kyla Jones - Tax Collector Col. Stephen McCartney -Police

FROM:	Lyn Pagliarini	City Clerk
Date:	March 29, 2018	
Subject:	Zone Change Application	

Subject: Zone Change 701 East Avenue

Name of Applicant:

Smart Energy Holdings, LLC – Kevin Rossi property owner

Plat:	263
Lots:	005 and 101
Address:	701 East Avenue

Please review and comment on the attached application and return to the Clerk's office no later than <u>April 2, 2018</u>. Your comments are required so that the City Council may consider this application on <u>April 23, 2018</u>. Should you have "no comment" on the attached plan, you are still required to sign off on this memo with a notation that your department does not have any concerns with the application.

Comments:

NO CONCERNS.

Director's signature:

Date:

Annual taxes:

109,100 (WITHOUT ZONE CHANGE)

<u>3,240.42</u>

For use by Tax Assessor/Collector and Planning Director only (if applicable):

Assessed value of property: // /

Appraised value of property:



SCOTT AVEDISIAN MAYOR

> JUDY WILD CITY CLERK

TO: Janine Burke – Sewer Allan Booth - Tax Assessor Kyla Jones - Tax Collector Col. Stephen McCartney -Police

FROM:	Lyn Pagliarini	City Clerk

Date: March 29, 2018

Subject: Zone Change Application

Subject: Zone Change 701 East Avenue

Name of Applicant: Smart Energy Holdings, LLC – Kevin Rossi property owner

Plat:263Lots:005 and 101Address:701 East Avenue

Please review and comment on the attached application and return to the Clerk's office no later than <u>April 2, 2018</u>. Your comments are required so that the City Council may consider this application on <u>April 23, 2018</u>. Should you have "no comment" on the attached plan, you are still required to sign off on this memo with a notation that your department does not have any concerns with the application.

Comments:

Director's signature:

no comment

Date:

# For use by Tax Assessor/Collector and Planning Director only (if applicable):

Assessed value of property:

Annual taxes:

Appraised value of property:



SCOTT AVEDISIAN MAYOR

CITY CLERK

TO: Janine Burke – Sewer Allan Booth - Tax Assessor Kyla Jones - Tax Collector Col. Stephen McCartney -Police

FROM: Lyn Pagliarini City Clerk

Date: March 29, 2018

Subject: Zone Change Application

Subject: Zone Change 701 East Avenue

Name of Applicant:

Smart Energy Holdings, LLC – Kevin Rossi property owner

ue

Please review and comment on the attached application and return to the Clerk's office no later than <u>April 2, 2018</u>. Your comments are required so that the City Council may consider this application on <u>April 23, 2018</u>. Should you have "no comment" on the attached plan, you are still required to sign off on this memo with a notation that your department does not have any concerns with the application.

Please see Solances due (attached Comments:

oΣ

Date:

2118

Director's signature:

For use by Tax Assessor/Collector and Planning Director only (if applicable):

Assessed value of property:\_\_

Annual taxes:

Appraised value of property:

Bill Information							
My File Edit Tools	Help					· · · ·	
0 1 4 B	Q 🗐 🖾		a 🗡 🗟 🔳		<b>0</b> 0 († 1	a 🖗 0 🖉 i	3
n n n n	Year/Type/Bill N	lo, · · · · · · · ·					
History	2017 RE-R	1700 1603					
Detail	Property Inform	nation	، پینه در د وی ادمیدهمه دست د د	· · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	الم
Orig Bill	Parcel ID	263-0005-0000					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Alt Parc	263-0005-0000					
Apply Pmt	Prop Loc	EAST AVE			· ·		
Scan Bill							•
Quick Entry	Installment Info	ormation	·· ·	· · · · · ·	······································	، دېلىكى ()، دىلەر) مەدەم يەمىيەرد ()، رىلىر	۲۰۰۰ - ۲۰۰۰ -
Effective Date		Billed	Abt/Adj	Pmt/Ci		Interest	Unpaid bal
	07/16/17	774.18	0,		774.18	0.00	0.00
Utility Acct	10/16/17	774.18	0,	==	774.18	0.00	0.00
Customer	01/16/18	774.18	0.		774.18	0.00	0.00
Name	05/01/18	774.18	0.		0.00	0.00	774.18
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Fees/Pen	0.00	0,		0.00	0.00	0.00
Parcel	Totals	3,096.72	0.		2,322.54	0.00	774.18
Prop ID	Notes/Alerts					· .	
Misc Receipt	Notestylei B					04/02/2018	0.00
View-Rev	DEC 31 Own	er: ROSSI, KEVIN				tInt	0.00
						Paid al Paid	0.00
Validator	🔁 View pr	ior unpaid bills			100	a rao	2,322.54
Bill Dates	🖨 View ar	ncestor prior unpaid bil	ls				
Bill Audits	ana	······					
Bill Events		(				·.	
Reprint							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Preferences							e e e
Diagnostics							· · · · ·
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
		•		•			•
· ·						· ·	:
	Batch Informat	ian in the second	• • • • · · · · · · • • • • • • • • • •	1979 Auros - A. A. A. A.			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		9616	Department Current Receipt		22 0.00	Batch Total Receipt Count	0.00 0
ſ		10 of 14			QE	Attachments (0)	
L	L						
Display transaction history t	for the current b	5)) <b>)</b> .					-

Bill Information						
My File Edit Tools	·					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
00343		t ZX &	a 🏼 💀 🖬 🖷		n 👍 🛛 🖪 🕯	<u> </u>
kwana	Year/Type/Bill			· ·····		· ·
History	2017 RE-	17001604				
Detail		mation	······································			
Orig Bill	Parcel ID	263-0101-0000				
Apply Pmt	Alt Parc	263-0101-0000				
Scan Bill	Prop Loc	EAST AVE		·	2	· · · · ·
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	w. r H ( w	ا ا	·	·		۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰
Quick Entry	Installment In Int Dt		Abt/Adj	Pmt/Crd	Interest	Unpaid bal
Effective Date	07/16/17	35.94	0.00	35,94	0.00	0.00
Utility Acct	10/16/17	35.92	0,00	35.92	0.00	0.00
Customer	01/16/18	35.92	0.00	0.00	3.23	39.15
Name	05/01/18	35.92	0.00	0.00	3.23	39.15
Parcel	Fees/Pen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Totals	143.70	0.00	71.86	6.46	78.30
Prop ID	Notes/Aler	ts .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Du	e 04/02/2018	42,38
Misc Receipt	DEC 21 Ou	mer: ROSSI, KEVIN			xt Int	7,18
View-Rev	DEC 31 OA	MELL ROSSI, NEVIN		Int	Paid	0.00
Validator	( <u></u>			Tot	tal Paid	71.86
Bill Dates		orior unpaid bills				
Bill Audits	View a	ancestor prior unpaid bi				
	•				• .	·
Bīl Events						
Reprint						
Preferences						
Diagnostics						· .
			· · ·			•. • .
•						. : .
· .					· · ·	
	• • • •	· · ·	•••••	· · · · · · · · · · ·	ار بې مېنې مېسې مېچې د او بې د بې	z 1 Marine Franciska and Balance da zu de lange fel - Balandera es 1924
	Batch Informa Batch #		Department		Batch Tat-1	n nn
	Deposit		Current Receipt	0.00	Batch Total Receipt Count	0. <u>00</u> 0
· · ·		]10 o≓ 14		NOM	<u>Attachments (0)</u>	
	·	и ч				
Display transaction history	for the current	. Dill+		•		
a and a second secon	and an and a second second	<u>, an an an airte an an an an an a</u>				



#### Narrative Report Bike Path Solar Project Rossi Property East Ave, Warwick, RI

# PECENED

MAR 12 2018

CITY OF WARWICK PLANNING DEPARTMENT

This narrative report accompanies an application for a Major Land Development/Subdivision application on two parcels of land located on East Avenue, identified as Assessor's Parcel ID 263/0101/0000/, measuring approximately 0.45 acres with frontage at approximately 701 East Avenue, and Assessor's Parcel ID 263/0005/0000/, which is back land measuring approximately 8 acres. The proposed development consists of the construction and operation of a 500 kilowatt solar park in two phases of approximately 250 kilowatts each, for the generation of electric power, with a total of approximately 40 rows of photovoltaic modules (solar panels), associated site improvements, and electrical utility connections to be installed.

The total solar build-out will occupy approximately 2 acres of this roughly 8.4 acre site. The first phase is proposed to be constructed in the summer of 2018. The second phase is scheduled to be constructed in the summer of 2020. The delay is due to certain rules imposed by the Narraganset Electrical Company in administering its Renewable Energy Growth Program, which requires a two-year waiting period between solar projects generating from the same site.

The bulk of the land is a wedge-shaped parcel located primarily behind homes which are on the south side of East Avenue. The site is accessed from East Avenue via a 60' +/- wide parcel with a paved drive way. The back parcel abuts the Pawtuxet River to the north, a paved public bike path to the south, and the back yards of several properties to the west. The land features a relatively flat area at about the same elevation as the paved bike path, and from there it slopes north to the banks of the Pawtuxet River. The solar installation will be installed on the high flat area, and more than 200' away from the river.

The land has been owned by the Rossi family for more than 75 years. In the 1980's, the area intended for use for the solar installation is reported to have been filled and levelled using large stone, concrete and gravel associated with the nearby I-95/I-295 highway construction project. A portion of the property outside the intended solar site has evidence of concrete, block and other fill materials that have not been levelled.

Installation of a standard racking system and supports for solar panels involves driving steel beams vertically into the ground, with the remaining system attached to these vertical members. Due to the existence of introduced, impenetrable structure on this site, driving vertical steel beams will be problematic. As a result the solar project will be designed and built using a ballasted racking system that will rest on top of the ground surface, with no ground penetrations at all. This ballasted construction method is the same as used throughout New England on solar projects that are constructed on top of landfills capped with a rubber cover.

The landowner has spent considerable time keeping the land clear, tidy, and well-kept. A small nonconforming garage is located on the property, which was built some years back, and which is shown on the Bike Path Solar project plans. It is the project's intent that once the solar project is built, this garage will be utilized to store materials and maintenance equipment used to support the solar project. INST: 00003826 8k: 9019 Pa: 193

William DePasquale, Jr., AICP Planning Director

Scott Avedisian Mayor

CITY OF WARWICK Planning Department 3275 Post Road, Annex; Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. (401) 738-2009

March 26, 2018

Smart Energy Holdings, LLC 22 Lower Falls Road Falmouth, Maine

Kevin Rossi 18 Rosso Street Warwick, RI 02886

RE: Assessor's Plat 263 Assessor's Lots 05 and 101 East Avenue

Dear Applicant:

The following is the decision on your application for Master Plan Approval of a Major Land Development Project/Subdivision, heard by the Warwick Planning Board at the regularly scheduled meeting held on March 14, 2018. The proposed development consists of merging two (2) existing lots to create one (1) lot to provide for the development of a 500 kilowatt solar park, with approximately 40 rows and a total of 880 photovoltaic modules (solar panels). The project will be constructed in two (2) phases, each phase will consist of the construction of 440 solar panels

The total solar park build-out will occupy approximately 2 acres of the 8.45+/- acre site. The site abuts land owned by the State of Rhode Island to the East (West Bay Bike Path), is bounded by the Pawtuxet River to the North and West, and abuts a Residential zone to the South. The project site is currently undeveloped, with topography that slopes toward the Pawtuxet River. The parcel is within a Light Industrial (LI) zone.

After completion of the Public Informational Meeting, for which notice was served and a record was kept, the Warwick Planning Board taking into consideration its knowledge and expertise, and after considering all of the representations and presentations made at the Public Informational Meeting, found this proposal to be generally consistent with Article 1 "Purposes



and General Statements" of the City's <u>Development Review Regulations</u>, and that this proposal meets the Standard Provisions of RIGL 45-23-60, and made the following findings of fact:

 That the proposal is generally consistent with the City of Warwick, <u>Comprehensive Plan</u> <u>2033</u>, (Comprehensive Plan), <u>Part V, Sustainable Systems</u> which calls for regulations to support renewable energy installations; and to choose sustainable materials, methods and practices, when possible.

That <u>Part V, Sustainable Systems</u>, states that "access to affordable, clean energy is critical to the City and its residents. Energy use, cost and conservation are integrally tied to many of the traditional elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including housing, transportation, economic development, community services, and natural resources...Energy conservation and efficiency are cost effective and reduce air pollution and negative impacts on other natural resources. Techniques for promoting energy demand reduction and efficiency include....the use of renewable and alternative energy sources."

That Goal 1, of <u>Part V, Sustainable Systems</u> states that the City shall implement practices to conserve energy and use renewable energy.

That Warwick City Council approved PCR-80-16, a resolution which states "the City of Warwick recognizes the benefits of renewable energy and wishes to increase the presence of renewable energy projects with the development of solar energy projects in Warwick."

- 2. That the proposal is not in compliance with the standards and provisions of the City's Zoning Ordinance therefore requiring City Council approval for the use, <u>Use Code 608.</u> <u>Electric Power Plant</u>, for the solar generation of electricity, in a Light Industrial zone, and dimensional waivers from the Warwick Zoning Ordinance, <u>Dimensional Table</u>, <u>Footnote (3)</u>, for less-than-required setback for an industrial use from an abutting Residential District, and <u>Section 505.1(B)</u> for less-than-required minimum landscape buffer along a property line that abuts a residential district and <u>Section 505.1(C)</u> for fencing/screening not located on the abutting residential district property line.
- 3. That there are no indications of significant negative environmental impacts from the proposed development at the Master Plan phase. The Master Plan indicates a wetlands area on the site, and therefore the proposal requires approval from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). Approximately 75 percent of the lot is located within a flood zone (AE) that is associated with the Pawtuxet River. The proposed location of the solar panels is in close proximity to the delineated AE flood zone boundary.
- 4. That the development will not result in the creation of individual lots with such physical constraints to development that building on those lots according to pertinent regulations and building standards would be impracticable. The Applicant is proposing to merge two (2) existing lots, to create one (1) lot, and is proposing to utilize the available upland area on the parcel.

- 5. That the proposed development possesses access to a public street, East Avenue. Access to the development will be provided via a paved driveway on East Avenue. The site will be accessed for routine maintenance and in case of emergency. The existing site driveway encroaches on Assessor's Plat 263, Assessor's Lot 92, property owned by the State of Rhode Island.
- 6. That the subject parcel fronts on East Avenue, and is identified as Assessor's Plat: 263 Assessor's Lots: 05 and 101. The parcel is currently undeveloped, with the exception of an existing garage on site which will be utilized for storage of materials and maintenance equipment for the proposed solar park use. That the subject parcel abuts the Pawtuxet River to the North and West and the West Bay Bicycle Path to the East.
- 7. That there is an existing 30' Water Department easement on AP 263, AL 05, with an existing 42" transmission water main.
- 8. That the Applicant held a neighborhood meeting on February 22, 2018 to present the proposal to the project abutters. The meeting was attended by 12 people, all in support of the proposal.
- 9. That there is no sewer access proposed or required for this use.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, on a motion by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. Catalano, the Warwick Planning Board voted unanimously to grant Master Plan approval, with the following stipulations:

- 1. That the all plans shall comply with "Rules and Regulations for Professional Land Surveying in the State of Rhode Island, effective date November 25, 2015. All survey monumentation (if necessary) shall be set prior to recording of the Final Subdivision Plan.
- 2. That, prior to Final Approval, the Property Owner shall merge Assessor's Plat 263, Assessor's Lots 05 and 101, and record a subdivision as per <u>The City of Warwick's</u> <u>Development Review Regulations</u>. This plan shall include a Record Plat name and Record Lot designations.
- 3. That the parcel shall receive City Council approval for the use (Electric Power Plant for the solar generation of electricity within a Light Industrial zone) and dimensional waivers from the <u>Warwick Zoning Ordinance</u>, <u>Dimensional Table</u>, <u>Footnote (3)</u>, for lessthan-required setback for an industrial use from an abutting Residential District, and <u>Section 505.1(B)</u> for less-than-required minimum landscape buffer along a property line that abuts a residential district and <u>Section 505.1(C)</u> for fencing/screening not located on the abutting residential district property line.

- 4. That a Storm Water Management Plan shall be submitted in accordance with <u>Rhode</u> <u>Island Storm Water Design and Installation Standards Manual</u>, dated December 2010, and designed to demonstrate a zero-net runoff from the proposed development.
- 5. That the Project Engineer shall meet with the City of Warwick Department of Public Works (DPW) Engineering staff to review the proposed drainage system prior to submission to Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) or Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT).
- 6. That the Operation and Maintenance Plan for the proposed stormwater collection system shall be included in the Preliminary submission.
- 7. That all necessary state permits, including, but not limited to RIDEM and RIDOT Physical Alteration Permit (PAP), shall be obtained prior to submission to the Planning Board for Preliminary approval.
- 8. That the Project Engineer shall submit as part of the Preliminary submittal, an elevation certificate for the development area, and shall flag the edge of the flood zone in the field prior to the issuance of a building permit. Based on the location of the flood zone in the field, the Building Official may require specialized construction for the installation.
- 9. That all corners shall be negotiable by vehicles having an outer tire turning radius of 50' to allow for unimpeded access by fire apparatus.
- 10. That dead-end roads longer than 150 feet shall provide turning capabilities for fire apparatus as per NFPA 1 (RIFC) 2012 edition. There shall be no landscaping or natural barriers to prevent easy access of fire apparatus.
- 11. That a gravel or other non-combustible base shall be installed and maintained under and around the installation.
- 12. That before issuance of any permits, the Fire Department shall review all plans for compliance with all life safety codes and issues as outlined in NFPA FIRE CODE, 2012 Edition and NFPA 70 National Electrical Code, 2011 Edition; ARTICLE 690 Solar Photovoltaic Systems; and ARTICLE 490 Equipment, Over 600 Volts, Nominal.
- 13. That the location of the transformers/inverters shall be indicated on the Preliminary plan and located as far from the abutting Residential zone as practicable. The transformers/inverters shall maintain a noise level at or below 55dB and there shall be no greater than a 3dB change in amplitude (the minimum audible difference perceptible to the average person) measured along the entire southern property line which abuts the existing residential zone or the eastern property line with abuts the state owned property, the West Bay Bicycle Path. If necessary, and at the request of the City, the Applicant shall be responsible to fund and submit a *noise study*, conducted by an environmental professional, measuring pre-background sound with the post construction as-built conditions that illustrate adherence with this stipulation. Said study shall be submitted to

the Building Inspector and Administrative Officer to the Planning Board within 90 days of the City's request.

- 14. That the Preliminary submittal shall include a Landscape Plan, prepared and stamped by a registered Rhode Island Landscape Architect. The Landscape Architect shall contact the Planning Department prior to beginning the design process. Said plan shall be subject to approval by the Administrative Officer and provide, at a minimum, fencing and gate details, and screening/fencing for the neighboring residential properties.
- 15. That the Project Engineer shall indicate the location of the security fence and access gate on the site plan.
- 16. That no fencing or landscaping shall be installed on the Water Department easement as to not interfere with the integrity of the 42" water transmission line.
- 17. That the Applicant shall install educational signage along the bike path regarding the benefits of renewable energy/solar power. Wording and sign location to be approved by the Administrative Officer.
- 18. That the area of pavement (Assessor's Plat 263, Assessor's Lot 101) encroaching on the abutting State property shall be removed. The site access driveway shall be repaved to city standards to provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
- 19. That the solar park shall be maintained on a regular basis by the owner/operator and shall be cleared of debris, weeds, trash, etc. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs and maintaining the integrity of fencing. The equipment shall be maintained in good repair and working order. Malfunctioning or inoperable equipment shall be removed from the property immediately and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- 20. That a sign shall be posted on the facility and shall display the name of the owner and or operator of the facility and provide a twenty-four (24) hour emergency contact number.
- 21. That the solar park shall not be used for displaying any advertising.
- 22. That the Applicant shall utilize measures that minimize impacts on neighboring properties to the maximum extent possible. As part of the Preliminary submittal, the Applicant shall submit a detailed report of the proposed operational characteristics of the solar park, including key features of the inverters (overall size, height and noise level which shall be limited to 55 dBs); and the means and methods planned to minimize or avoid off-premises impacts to the adjoining residential and recreational uses. In addition to addressing noise concerns, the report shall include security provisions to prevent unauthorized access, emergency access provisions, security lighting, and details of any proposed identification signage.

- 23. That the clearing of natural vegetation shall be strictly limited to what is necessary for the construction, optimal operation, and maintenance of the solar park. The Applicant shall submit a site plan indicating the areas of vegetation to be cleared.
- 24. That at the abandonment of the use of this solar park, all equipment shall be removed from the site, no more than six months after the date of discontinued operations. The owner/operator shall notify the building official of the proposed date of discontinued operation and plans for removal. At a minimum, decommissioning shall consist of: removal of all solar park related structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the site; disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with applicable disposal regulations; and stabilization and revegetation of the site as necessary to prevent erosion and restore the natural habitat.
- 25. That the Applicant shall post a bond, in an amount to be determined by the Administrative Officer, to provide a guarantee that the facility will be promptly removed after it reaches the end of its useful life.

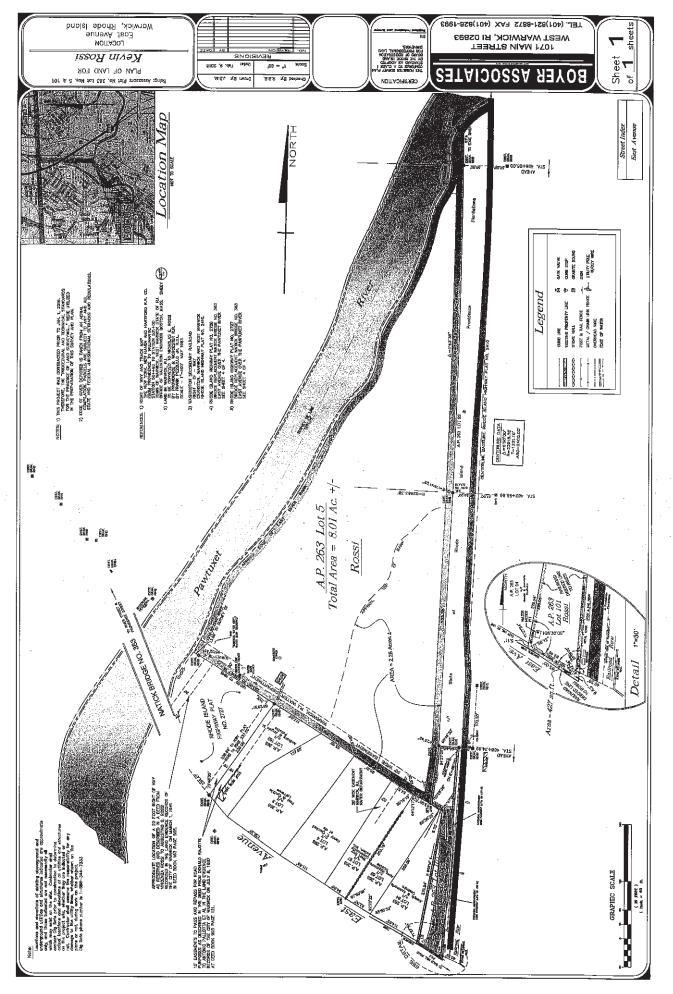
After approval of the Master Plan, on a motion made by Mr. Desmarais and seconded by Mr. Bergantino the Planning Board voted unanimously to forward a favorable recommendation to the City Council for the requested zone change and dimensional relief as presented in the Master Plan, and as integral to the project.

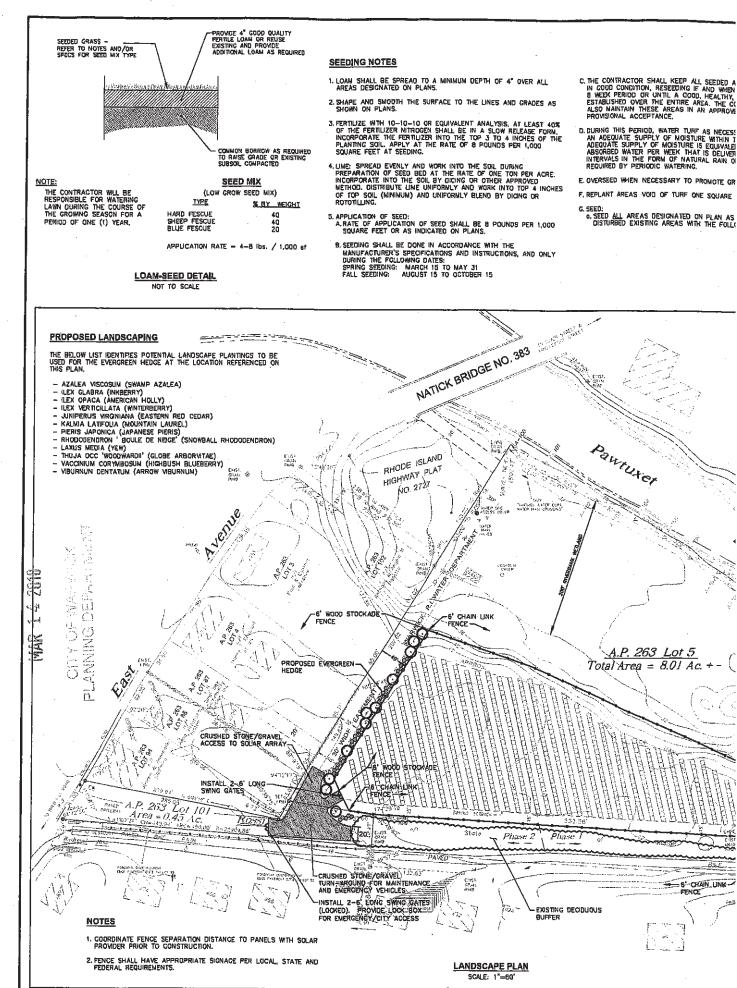
Sincerely.

Philip Slocum, Chair Warwick Planning Board

RECORDED Mar 27,2018 08:38A Lyn Pasliarini, Cits Clerk City of Marwick, RI

### **EXISTING MAP**





alisti Anna

به بر لورۍ i ang