



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Site Visit at 311 Pleasant Street

March 23, 2022, at 4:30 PM

1 Present: Tricia Kendall, Chair
2 Lakshmi Krishnan, Clerk
3 Deepa Venkat
4 Kevin McClean
5 Others: Peter Matchak, Town Planner
6 Emma Snellings, Asst. Town Planner
7
8

9 *Call to Order*

10 Tricia Kendall called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.
11

12 *311 Pleasant Street Special Permit – Site Visit*

13 The Board members met on site and walked around the parking lot to see where the two proposed
14 arrays are sited. Roberta Soolman, resident, asked about the proposed plantings, and a discussion of
15 the vegetative screening locations followed. Ms. Soolman asked about the lifespan of Leyland
16 cypresses, which are the proposed vegetation, and Ms. Krishnan replied that the trees have a lifespan
17 of 10-25 years.
18

19 Ms. Soolman shared concerns of the Open Space and Recreation Committee about the view of the
20 solar array from the River Walk. Currently the site for the proposed solar canopies is clearly visible
21 from the other side of the river, and the trail will be close to the other side of the river. A bridge was
22 originally planned to cross the river at the VFW, but the location of the floodplain changed the plans
23 and the bridge will be further up river. Ms. Soolman asked if the floodplain location affects the solar
24 canopies, and Mr. Matchak replied that the location within the floodplain is a part of the current
25 application before the Planning Board. Mr. Matchak reviewed the permitting process of the current
26 application.
27

28 Ms. Kendall and Mr. McClean discussed getting a street view rendering of the project. Ms. Venkat
29 asked Ms. Soolman about her concerns with the view, and Ms. Soolman replied that the issue is with
30 the structures, not the poles of the canopies.
31

32 The site visit progressed to Ponderosa Road, across the Sudbury River from the VFW. The Board
33 and Ms. Soolman discussed the future location of the River Walk, and discussed the view of the
34 solar canopies from the far side of the river.
35

36 The meeting adjourned at 5:10PM