

Town of Canton
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
In Person and Video Conference
Minutes

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Ashley	----	Supervisor
Bob Washo	----	Council Member
Jim Smith	----	Council Member
John Taillon	----	Council Member
Bob Santamoor	----	Council Member

Also Present: Town Clerk Heidi L. Smith, Deputy Town Clerk Leanna Moquin (zoom), Mike McQuade (zoom), Historian Linda Casserly (zoom), Economic Director Leigh Rodriguez, Attorney Eric Gustafson

Absent: Recreation Direct Meghan Richardson, Assessor Cindy Brand

Public Attendance: see attached sign in sheet.

A. Call the meeting to Order/Welcome

Supervisor Ashley called the board meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Supervisor Ashley added a new item to the agenda under **New Business #12 MJ Engineering Proposal on the Comprehensive Plan** and the second item Ian MacKellar's name was misspelled.

B. Public Comment

Clark Cumming, Canton resident on Riverside Dr., asked what is the Town's position on the Rich Road Solar Project? Clark also asked for guidance on how to go about talking about this at greater length for more public discussion on the topic. What is Canton's responsibility in the project as far as what the board controls? Who has control? What is the 10%?

Paula Jenson Moulton, Canton resident on Miner St. Rd, stated she just found out about the Rich Rd Solar Project about 3-weeks ago. Paula stated she would like to see this advertised in the Canton Plaindealer. Paula's concern is the integrity of the name of the project "Rich Road" Solar Project when it includes 7-roads not the Rich Road itself. Paula's other concern is the size of the project. The care and responsibility of the project is also a concern. Will Canton benefit from this? Are we negotiating for Canton? Everyone should benefit from this. Paula's other concern is the lithium batteries. Paula also submitted a letter to the board.

Casey Maroney, Canton resident on Irish Settlement Road, asked the board to think how

the Rich Road Solar Project will benefit Canton. Property values will plummet from this project. Casey stated there is not enough science for this project to come into Canton and to not get the benefit from it. Casey asked the board to be more transparent.

Richard Grover, Canton Village resident, doesn't think the Rich Road Solar Project can be stopped because it is a State Project. Richard stated we can organize as a community, put public pressure on them, make them accountable. Without citizen pressure it will go through as designed.

Frank Maroney, Canton resident on Irish Settlement, Road stated we need to think about the greater Canton. The Rich Road Solar Project is not just one road. It is seven being affected.

Barbara Keller Rogers, Canton resident on Miner St. Rd, sent a letter to the board prior to the meeting. Barbara asked the board for better communication with the Town. Barbara asked for a press release after all Town meetings. Requesting regular communication. What would we ask for to make this project livable?

Cindy Randi, Canton resident on CR 21, stated that even though she is not directly impacted by the Rich Road Solar Project but is a lover of the community. Cindy is concerned that Canton will turn into a solar town, and it will affect our children. Cindy is not against alternative energy but believes this project is too large. Cindy would also like to see more communication. Cindy also sent the board a letter prior to the meeting.

Paula Jenson also stated another concern she has is conservation.

Clark Cummings stated that he spoke with Code Officer Mike McQuade and any questions he could answer he did. The other questions would be sent to EDF. Clark also brought up battery storage and how will the solar panel be recycled?

Steve Molnar asked, can more of these projects come up? What is the limit of these projects?

Is there a solar plan in place? How can the public go about seeing this plan?
Council Member Bob Washo stated it is on the town website.

Supervisor Ashley went on the record to state that she did receive an email from Katrina Hebb and submitted it to the town clerk. The board also received a copy of the letter.

Supervisor Ashley thanked everyone for their comments. Ashley also let the public know that minutes and recordings are on the website.

Council Member Jim Smith stated that the Solar Law was formulated which allows the

Town to have control over community projects. Most of what is in the solar law the State will find to be non-subsequent. The solar law will have little impact on the large projects. Smith stated he is glad to see the community at this meeting. Smith stated we need the community to help decide where the Town goes with this. The board needs a lot of help if the community want to oppose this.

Council Member Bob Washo thanked everyone for showing up. Washo stated they are in the process of creating a white paper to put on the website that explains how we got to this point and updates along the way. Three years ago, the Town passed a Solar Law that was forward thinking applicable to solar project 5-megawatts or smaller.

Council Member Washo also stated he agrees with the comments on the name of the project being Rich Road. That was one of the first things that jumped out to him.

Frank Maroney asked once the state allows this project what's next? This is bigger than the Town. Has anyone spoke to the County.

Council Member Washo responded yes.

Council Member Bob Santamoor stated the board and community needs to push together. Together we need to communicate this to our neighbors.

Supervisor Ashley stated for the record that three years ago the Town did try to get a seat at the State Sighting Board table, but it didn't go anywhere.

Casey Maroney stated to be careful of the state appraisers.

Lynn Soulia, Canton resident, asked if there is going be another meeting on this project? Council Member Washo commented the town did require that EDF send a direct mailer to everyone with a 911 address in the Town of Canton next time there is going to be a meeting.

Rainbow Crabtree, Canton resident on Pink School House Rd, asked if the Town is going to apply for intervener funds? Can there be more than one?

Council Member Washo stated yes, the town will. There can be multiple stake holders but there are limited monies available.

No more public comments.

Supervisor Ashley closed the public comment at 7:25 PM.

C. County Legislator Representative(s) Update(s)

Ben Hull, newly elected Country Legislator Elect for District 8, introduced himself to the

board.

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion was by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to approve the Special Meeting 10/4/2022, Regular Board Meeting 10/12/2022, and Special Meeting 10/20/2022 minutes.

All in favor. Motion carried.

E. Correspondence

1. Supervisor Ashley handed Clerk Smith for the record a report from the St. Lawrence County of the equalization rates.

2. Supervisor Ashley reported she received talking points on the International University Sports Federation from the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce.

F. Town Finances Report

Angela Gray, Gray & Gray read over the tenth month of the 2022 Town Financial Report. The Town Financial Report was sent to the board prior to the monthly meeting.

Angela Gray read over the Town Clerk's financial report for the month of October 2022. The Town Clerk's report was sent to Clerk Smith and the town board prior to the monthly meeting.

G. Audit Committee

"A" General Fund	----	\$51,730.78
"B" Town Outside	----	\$135,606.38
"DA" Town Wide Highway	----	\$9,173.74
"DB" Highway	----	\$29,947.44
"SF" Special Fire	----	\$3,958.00
"SL" Special Lighting	----	\$293.47
"TA" Trust & Agency	----	\$20,364.25

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member John Taillon for the approval of the monthly expenditures.

All in favor. Motion carried.

H. Acceptance of Department Reports

Economic Developer

Economic Director Rodriguez reported highlights on the CBDG Cares Act, Miner Street Project, Willow Island Project, EPA Brownfield Area-wide Assessment Grant and Brownfield Opportunity Area.

Highway

Highway Superintendent Smith reported that the crew is getting ready for winter. Started tree and brush maintenance. The sand pile is complete. All plow trucks are ready to go for winter. Completed two more projects in Rensselaer Falls with one more to complete. Worked with Clerk Smith on getting final reimbursement submitted for CHIPS. Smith also met with NYPA on the road usage on the smart road passage.

Council Member Santamoor asked about the loader.

Smith replied they did not get any sealed bids. There is a contract that has been forwarded to the Supervisor, Attorney, and highway committee to do highway auction international. There are no charges to the Town.

Smith put a request in to purchase a two-stage plow. The purchase cost is \$14,594.00. The goal with this style plow is to help reduce hard pack snow and ice from building up on the roadways and to also reduce the amount of sand and salt needed.

Council Member Washo added that the highway committee is in favor of the purchase.

A motion was Council Member Bob Washo and seconded by Council Member Jim Smith to purchase a two-stage front plow at the cost of \$14,594.00.

All if favor. Motion carried.

Council Member Taillon asked what are the projects that were done in Rensselaer Falls. Smith replied they started out with a culvert replacement that started at the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department and into the neighbor's yard. Which had been a concern for multiple years. There were several stumps that were done. The ditch line in front of the Mayor's house was starting to rote, that was filled in and dressed off with topsoil. On Heuvelton Street there is a catch basin that needed to be dressed up. Right now, the crew is on South Street by the cemetery digging out stumps to make into lawn.

Supervisor Ashley added that the Town has received payment for the first two projects.

Historian

Historian Casserly reported that she continues to unpack at the new location. There has been a lot of foot traffic. Hoping to have a celebration at the end of November or beginning of December.

Supervisor Ashley added that the inspection should happen next week.

Town Clerk

Clerk Smith reported she has been working on the Town Clerk portion of the website. The CT meeting met and discussed putting Solar information on the website. Clerk Smith has been working with the dog warden on a dangerous dog case. Spoke with a representative from Kofile to discuss having a birth book preserved.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Washo and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to accept department reports.
All in favor. Motion carried.

I. Committee Reports

Council Member Washo recognized Village Deputy Mayor Carol Pynchon for all of her work on shared committees and all the projects worked on together. Thank you, you will be missed.

Supervisor Ashley also thanked Carol Pynchon on behalf of the Town for all her work.

Sustainability Committee:

Bob Santamoor reported that Ann Heidenreich is retiring at the end of the year. The big question that was brought up at the last meeting was the direction and leadership of the committee.

Highway Committee:

Jim Smith reported the committee met and discussed NYPA, Miner Street and the plow. The EDF road agreement was discussed and will continue to be discussed with the Solar Attorney at the next meeting.

Communication and Technology Committee:

John Taillon reported the committee is working on a policy for what goes on the website. Taillon thanked Pynchon for all the work she did on the policy.

Negotiations Committee:

Mary Ann Ashley reported that the Town is waiting for the CSEA representative to read the Red line contract so that the retroactive payouts can be made. Ashley has contacted the president twice to follow up. Ashley hopes this will be solidified by next payroll.

J. Old Business

1. Housing Funds Town of Canton 2013 CDBG Housing Funds

Supervisor Ashley stated she asked the clerk's office to go through the records to see if there is any information on these funds. Clerk Smith reported that the clerk's office went through the 2012 and 2013 minutes and there is nothing is there about these funds. Clerk Smith went through a box labeled 2013 and there was nothing found. Smith is looking for the 2013 Bank Statement box. Supervisor Ashley also asked Angela Gray to search for an email that John Gray sent.

2. Public Presentation-Miner Street Road/Drainage Safety Improvement Monday 11/14 6:30 PM

Supervisor Ashley reminded everyone that there is a public presentation on Monday November 14th at 6:30 p.m. on the Miner Street Road/Drainage Safety Improvement

Project in the Court Room.

K. New Business

1. Consider Adoption of 2023 Budget

Supervisor Ashley added the board needs to recognize the changes that were made Monday and that there is a \$10.00 discrepancy with the preliminary budget.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Washo to change the preliminary budget by decreasing the "A" General Appropriations and property taxes by \$10.00 to satisfy the tax levy.
All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Bob Washo to pass the resolution to adopt the 2023 Town Budget fiscal year January 2023-December 2023.
All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Appoint NYS AOT Annual Meeting Delegate

Supervisor Ashley reported that the board needs to appoint a delegate for the NYS AOT Annual meeting. Supervisor Ashley will be attending that meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Bob Washo to assign Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley as the delegate.
All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Rescind original COVID Policy/Procedure

Supervisor Ashley reported that the original COVID policy/procedure needs to be rescinded due to changes that have been made to the paid sick leave.

Supervisor Ashley reported this discussion will be taken into executive session because it is a personnel issue and needs further discussion.

4. Resignation of Planning Board Member Sigi Barr effective immediately

Supervisor Ashley reported that Sigi Barr will be resigning as a planning board member effective immediately. Sigi has agreed to stay on as an alternate.

5. Appointment of Sigi Barr as Planning Board Alternate 1-year term effective immediately

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Washo and seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to appoint Sigi Barr as a planning board alternate for a one-year term effective immediately.
All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Appoint Ian MacKellar Alternate to Planning Board to Member of Planning Board
5-year term effective December 8, 2022
A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member Bob Washo to appoint Ian MacKellar as planning board member effective December 8, 2022, for a five-year term.
All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Appoint Eric Barr from Alternative to Planning Board to Member of Planning Board
5-year term effective immediately
A motion was made by Council Member Bob Washo and seconded by Bob Santamoor to appoint Eric Barr as a planning board member for a five-year term effective immediately.
All in favor. Motion carried.
8. Rights of the River Resolution
Tabled
9. Approve purchase of 2 Stage Front Snowplow
Approved in department reports under highway.
10. Complete Streets Appointment
Toby Irven Complete Streets Chair reported that Jennifer Henry is relatively new to the area, she is interested in the Complete Streets work and has attended meetings and has agreed to serve. It is his recommendation to move forward.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Washo and seconded by Bob Santamoor to appoint Jennifer Henry to the Complete Streets Committee.
All in favor. Motion carried.
11. Town Committee Reassignment
Supervisor Ashley reported that Bob Washo has resigned from the building committee. Ashley has reassigned John Taillon to the building committee.
12. MJ Engineering Proposal
Supervisor Ashley reported she received a proposal from MJ Engineering and has made copies for the board members. This is the proposal for the Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Ashley was waiting for this proposal before reaching out to Rensselaer Falls.

Village Trustee Anne Sorenson reported that the Economic Development committee met this morning. After the Town reviews the proposal and suggests any changes that need to be made. Pass it to the Village board to discuss and review the suggested changes at their board meeting and get it back to the Town. This way it can get

approved before the next joint meeting, this can move forward.

Council member Bob Washo wants to wait for clarification from Rensselaer Falls before making any decision.

Supervisor Ashley also added that there needs to be discussion on who the lead will be to sign the contract. There needs to be a MOU, will it be the same structure as the Comprehensive Plan. Ashley will follow up with Rensselaer Falls next week.

L. Public Comment

None

Executive Session: Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council may conduct an executive session to discuss any of the issues identifies as proper by Public Officers Law 105(1)

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to go into executive session for the purpose of [D] discussion of proposed, pending or current litigations and [F] employment history of a particular person.
All in favor. Motion carried.

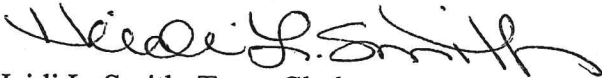
A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to come out of executive session at 8:45 PM.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Action taken out of executive session.

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to rescind the COVID policy effective immediately. Employees will need to use accrued sick time.
All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:48 PM.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi L. Smith, Town Clerk

Town Regular Board meeting
Sign In Sheet

11/9/22

Cindy Randin

Barbara Rogers

Kasey Maroney

Frank Maroney

Rainbow Crabtree

CLARK Cummings

Bob Hill

Charles Bolish

Sue Bolish

Paula Jean Morley

Dan + Lynne Soudia

Carol Hill

Richard E. Faverio

Barbara Lee

Brooke
Valerie White

Anna Sorenson

Ethan Townsend

Jim Mohr

Ed Petty



Rich Rd. Solar Project

1 message

Katrina Hebb <katrinahebb@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 8, 2022 at 2:27 PM

To: bsantamoor@cantonny.gov, bwasho@cantonny.gov, jsmith@cantonny.gov, jtaillon@cantonny.gov, Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>

Dear Town Board Members and Supervisor Ashley,

I have known about the Rich Road Solar Project since this summer, but until this week I was not aware of the magnitude of the project. I have some concerns about it, but unfortunately will not be able to attend tomorrow night's meeting, so I thought I'd send you a letter with questions and concerns here:

I am a proponent of green energy, and am even considering solar panels for my own home, but a 1,700-acre solar "farm" in our area is not a great idea in my opinion. This isn't a small family farm like our area is known for. It's a massive 2.2-acre monoculture, and I'm concerned that we're not thinking this through well.

The solar farm in Potsdam is about 12 acres in size and it's *huge*. But the Rich Road project is almost 150 times that in scope! There's got to be a better way to organize this.

Can there be restrictions put in place for how many acres one "parcel" of solar panels can be in a particular area? And can these parcels be spread out, further apart? We know from sustainability practices that a monoculture of anything is dangerous to the ecosystem around it.

It's also clear from the map of the area under consideration that forest will need to be cut down to accommodate the panel "farm." This is backwards-thinking and goes against the very point of the project. Again, this does not seem to be well thought out for sustainability purposes.

I have also recently learned that the energy produced from this project will be sent down state. Why must our area be forced to take on the negative impacts of the industrialization of green energy, when it could be done differently? When it *could* be done sustainably. When it could produce energy for North Country residents first.

There must be ways to do this without acres of land, as far as the eye can see, being covered in solar panels, and for the good of people who don't even live here. Will our tourism suffer? Will our local ecosystems suffer? Has a sustainability review been done on this project?

I absolutely agree that green energy is our future, but it must not come at the expense of protecting the people, wildlife, fertile land, and natural beauty of the North Country.

Sincerely,
Katrina Hebb

1279 CR 25
Canton, NY 13617
(315) 379-0776

Fw: Letter EDF Solar Farm

3 messages

Paula Jensen <pjensenmoulton@yahoo.com>

Fri, Nov 4, 2022 at 8:25 AM

To: "bsantamoor@cantonny.gov" <bsantamoor@cantonny.gov>, "bwasho@cantonny.gov" <bwasho@cantonny.gov>, "jsmith@cantonny.gov" <jsmith@cantonny.gov>, "jtaillon@cantonny.gov" <jtaillon@cantonny.gov>, "jreed@cantonny.gov" <jreed@cantonny.gov>, "mashley@cantonny.gov" <mashley@cantonny.gov>, "codeenforcement@cantonny.gov" <codeenforcement@cantonny.gov>, "townhighway@cantonny.gov" <townhighway@cantonny.gov>, "lrodriguez@cantonny.gov" <lrodriguez@cantonny.gov>, "ssmith@cantonny.gov" <ssmith@cantonny.gov>, "cbrand@cantonny.gov" <cbrand@cantonny.gov>

Dear Canton Town Council members and Town officials,

I have lived in Canton for 50 years, working in the Ogdensburg Prisons and as an administrator and Principal in Gouverneur and Edwards-Knox School Districts. My late husband was a teacher in Canton. And our children went to school here. We chose to live in Canton because of its local, small, caring community, a rural place that was not focused on materialism and commercial consumption. We built our house ourselves (cutting down only 7 trees) in 1990 on a 12-acre property that had no neighbors. Yet, we welcomed our neighbors as they built homes on the adjoining property.

I believe in local sustainable energy and protested the 765 KV power lines in the late 70s. I grow and harvest my own vegetables, heat my home with wood from my property and from the land of a friend who lives less than 4 miles from my home.

You can imagine my utter surprise when I found out 3 weeks ago that there is a HUGE solar farm (140 times the size of my 12 acres) that has part of its proposed border directly across from my home. I do not get The Watertown Times; I do subscribe and regularly read The Plaindealer which on Friday October 21 published its first article, "EDF moving forward with giant solar project". Now later, I found out other neighbors received questions about their wells. I DID NOT receive any such questionnaire. Why, when I live directly across from the proposed site, did I not receive a question about my well? Where is the equity and due diligence in this?

Then upon learning about the size and scope of this project, I immediately went online and read through the EDF 82-page report and saw the maps and community notices. Why did EDF (with your presumable knowledge) only advertise meetings in *The Watertown Times* which is NOT everyone's local newspaper, not even our town's paper.

I understand the need for solar energy...and the need to supply our community with that. Why are we not developing a community solar farm for Canton's use to provide power for its own population? Why are we agreeing to power over 62,000 homes when Canton's population needs only a fraction of that. Where is the environmental and economic justice in this project? Why (with the building of this proposed project) are we helping to encourage continued over consumption and unsustainable living practices?

Here are my main concerns:

INTEGRITY: This proposed project is called the Rich Road Solar Farm. Yet its 1,700 acres, or 2.6 square miles cover way more than the Rich Road name implies. I would envision with that name an appropriately sized acreage, or small solar farm. Its deceptive name actually includes the Irish Settlement Road, Old DeKalb Rd, RTE 11, Old Rte 11, Jingleville Rd and the Miner Street Rd. And in fact, **on their own EDF website map, the Rich Road is not even identified or labeled!** I bike on the Old DeKalb Road; I literally will be biking through a solar farm, not a road with precious farmland and trees.

SIZE: If this proposed project goes through, **2.6 miles of the town of Canton may be covered with Solar panels and lithium battery banks!** That would be like having over 4 prisons the size of Rikers Island, complete with fencing and solar cells! Will this solar farm attract new families to move into our small community? Is this appropriately sized? It certainly is not sized according to the energy needs of the town of Canton. I had a comparison using the US Census Bureau of the Town of Canton being 3.8 sq miles, leaving only 1.2 miles for homes and other land uses with a solar farm the magnitude of this proposed project ...but I questioned that.

CARE, RESPONSIBILITY AND OVERSIGHT: If this "Giant" Solar project goes through and once the solar panels are in place, who will ensure that proper care is taken of the land, responsible disposal of waste packing materials and beautification promises will be carried out. When learning of this proposal, I first visited John Casserly, who I understood

was on the Canton Planning Board and spoke to him of my concerns. He suggested I go see the Canton Solar project near my home as an example of a solar farm. I did that and became more concerned than ever! **Please see the attached photos of the solar cells' packing material and garbage that was left on the outside of the fence. And this is a much smaller solar farm.** I spoke with the neighbors (The Nobles) across the road with a direct view of the fence and solar farm and they mentioned evergreen trees were promised to be planted...but so far, now in November, there were none! How many Canton residents will be faced with this when Canton's project is so much larger in scope.

SAFETY: A bank of Lithium batteries with possible explosions and fire hazards. Lithium batteries are not allowed on airplanes and in mailing packages. Need I say more?

BEAUTY: I recall a few years ago going to a public meeting and putting yellow stickies up on boards for a Town of Canton Initiative. Talks of beautifying our community with local input was stressed. I knew about that meeting and went. Why was not this solar project presented to the community as well? If this project goes through, the town of Canton will never look the same. Canton's own website now states, "The Town of Canton is predominantly rural in character, boasting farms, open meadows, woodlands and beautiful open spaces;" and again "...thriving farms with rolling pastures; and open meadows, woodlands, and valleys all close to the beautiful Grasse River." Would we instead be "boasting" a 2.6 square mile solar farm by the Grasse River?

I appeal to you to act on behalf of all Canton residents and not solely be guided by fiscal motivation and strongly oppose this project. It is never too late to care for our environment and do the right thing!

Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of Canton. I know this must be a difficult challenge for many of you.

With appreciation and deep concern,
Paula Jensen-Moulton
965 Miner Street Rd.

3 attachments



IMG_6561.JPG
140K



IMG_6569.JPG
137K

IMG_6564.JPG
125K

To: Town of Canton Board Members and Town Supervisor

From: Cynthia Randi

Date: November 1, 2022

This communication is meant as a way to express my thoughts regarding the seventeen hundred acre Rich Road solar project that is being planned for Canton. I recently became aware of the magnitude of this project. Calling it the Rich Road solar project is misleading. If one knows the roads in the Canton area, it is immediately thought of as a much smaller project than it really is. It has only been in the last few weeks that I actually saw the map of the proposed location...and I was appalled! I drove the various roads that this project will impact and cannot even conceive of all that rural land covered in solar panels.

I understand that how we "feel" is not being taken into consideration and that is too bad. We, in the north country matter too. Many of us live here by choice; many of us would like to spend the remainder of our lives here simply because of what rural life and the Canton community provides. I understand the need for alternative energy but certainly there are ways to do this without the multitude of acres of land, as far as the eye can see, being covered in solar panels. Sometimes it feels like we are being punished for preferring to live a rural lifestyle!

Often times, when I debate the positives of rural life vs. urban life with family members, I am often reminded that Canton and the surrounding area is not the typical dying rural existence that rural America is portrayed by the media. I am told that we live in a "bubble" here because there are two colleges in Canton and two more in nearby Potsdam. I have observed, when visiting in other rural areas that we do have a very different "feel" as compared to the typical rural communities. I wonder how the future parents, students, professors, and administrators of these colleges and universities will view Canton after our landscape is covered in solar panels? Is it worth it, if it drives potential families away from Canton?

It is my hope that someone with the knowledge and willpower needed to stop these large corporations from infiltrating our way of life, by making promises (that often do not come to fruition) and waving the proverbial carrot of money, will step up and help us fight this.

I know you are all aware of the ramifications of this particular project. I have recently read the many facts and truths of what is being proposed so won't repeat them. I do wish you were all able to lead us through this but understand that, in many ways, your hands are tied.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Randi

2625 County Rt. 21 315-323-7203

Town of Canton Clerk
60 Main St.
Canton, NY 13617
November 17, 2022

Barbara and Brian Lee
91 Judson St.
Canton, NY 13617

Dear Canton Town Clerk:

Attached is a letter for the Town Board regarding the Rich Road Solar Project.

It is a copy we submitted on November 4, 2022 to the Watertown Daily Times, the Plaindealer, This Week / North Country Now, and to Jack Honor / EDF Project Manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barbara Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lee".

Barbara and Brian Lee



Canton's Rich Road Solar Project is one of 22 massive NYS solar projects. The Canton developer is EDF Renewables.

Rt.11 has signage stating it is a "Scenic Byway" as one turns left at the Cascade Restaurant and drives south.

Proceeding further south the Rich Road Solar Project will entail a lengthy swath of solar arrays on both sides of Rt.11. It stretches from Miner street across Rt.11 to the Irish Settlement road, covering 1500 acres.

For Rt.11 to remain a "Scenic Byway" Canton residents need to make their voices heard to ensure there is a healthy, abundant, green buffer boundary between the solar arrays and Rt.11.

We also need to add our voices to the Town Board's earnest negotiations for adequate EDF funding to repair road damage incurred from the transportation of these heavy solar arrays and for their continuing maintenance.

To express your opinions, please email or call:
Jack Honor, EDF Project Manager
jack.honor@edf-re.com
1-518-888-2589

November 9 @6:30PM @ the Canton Municipal Building the Town Board is meeting and is seeking the input of residents.

Sincerely, Barbara and Brian Lee, Canton

Barbara Lee Brian Lee
91 Judson St.
Canton, NY 13617

