

## FW: To FWD Canandaigua Agricultural Advisory Committee

Sarah Reynolds <sreynolds@townofcanandaigua.org>

Tue 1/24/2023 10:50 AM

To: Bob DiCarlo' <rsdicarlo@yahoo.com>;'Fernando Soberon' <fsoberon@standardnutrition.com>;'Tim Riley' <triley100@gmail.com>;Ray Henry <randb45@frontier.com>;Tim Stryker <strykert@rochester.rr.com>;'Gary Jones' <jonespettyblue@yahoo.com>

Cc: Shawna Bonshak <sbonshak@townofcanandaigua.org>;Doug Finch <dfinch@townofcanandaigua.org>;Kim Burkard <kburkard@townofcanandaigua.org>;'Linda Purdy' <ljpurdy59@yahoo.com>

Good morning Ag Committee Members,

Please see below. I was asked by a solar developer to forward a message to the Committee on their behalf. You will remember this is the gentleman that came and spoke to the committee last fall; he has two sketch plans currently with the Planning Board for solar array projects.

Thank you.

***Sarah Reynolds***

Administrative Coordinator

Town of Canandaigua

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**From:** Chet Feldmann <chet@distributedsun.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 10:34 AM

**To:** Sarah Reynolds <sreynolds@townofcanandaigua.org>

**Subject:** To FWD Canandaigua Agricultural Advisory Committee

Sarah – following up on your voicemail, you offered to forward a message to Agricultural Advisory Committee. I aim for discussion in hopes to ensure that Canandaigua farmers and aspiring shepherds are informed of the terms of the proposed law change.

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To the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Town of Canandaigua,

Belatedly, I thank you for listening and engaging with our presentation on agri-voltaics in the Town of Canandaigua in October of 2022. I hope it was informative and provided enough context on how renewable energy is being deployed over New York State.

I write currently to ensure that the Agricultural Advisory Committee is aware of the proposed law change of the solar law in the Town of Canandaigua. The Town Board has a moratorium on the docket for Monday, January 30 at the regularly scheduled meetings. The Town has proposed a change to the solar law to consider during the moratorium, which would effectively disallow Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar in the AR-1 and AR-2 zoning districts. Tier 3 and Tier 4 are large-scale solar arrays, greater than approximately 8 acres or 1 MW in size.

If the proposed law becomes passed law, unfortunately, our proposed projects will not be viable. However, I also point out that sheep grazing opportunities in agri-voltaics will also be highly limited by this law as well and agriculture, in general, may be at risk. Agri-voltaics may continue outside of Town limits and may even go on the small array permitted by Aura Power last year, but this will not be a large growth opportunity for local shepherds. But in a generation, when non-farming landowners come to a decision point in the Town of Canandaigua, they will likely only have two options: sell to a farmer or sell to a residential developer. Solar arrays can bring housing-free development to the Town of Canandaigua that can work with farmers rather than against them.

I plan to attend the Town Board meeting on January 30, and I would happily speak to any committee member prior to the event.

Thanks,

Chet Feldmann, P.E.

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