

February 10, 2017

Dear Neighbor,

I want to take this opportunity to share thoughts and respond to concerns that have arisen from the solar garden proposal for our property on the corner of North and Andrews Road. This has been our family home since 1988 and it is our goal to preserve the farm while helping to preserve the environment. The proposal for the solar garden arose from what we view as a community responsibility to practice environmentally friendly methods. A solar garden this size (approximately 10 acres) can generate enough “clean” renewable energy to support approximately 300 local families.

I understand the concern from neighbors, that a solar garden this size would be unsightly, given other solar projects which are very visible from the road. Our project is proposed for an area of the farm that is scrub land and has limited viable uses. The solar garden would be tucked away beyond the fields into the overgrown scrub area. It will be surrounded on three sides by existing trees, shrubs and wetlands. Only one side is exposed to the field and we are proposing adding flowering shrubs and trees to screen the views of the solar array. A wood rail fence, similar to what currently exists around the paddocks, is also proposed to the area facing the field. Our goal is to have the solar array blend in with the surrounding environment as much as possible.

When considering all the other possible uses of the farm, solar is a positive alternative, as it creates no pollution, requires only sun and no other natural resources. Solar energy systems do not produce odor, dust, or waste and are quiet “neighbors”.

We have photos available that provide a picture of what the views would be with the finished solar garden and proposed vegetation and screening enhancements. We want you, our neighbors, to have the necessary information to be accurately informed.

In addition to the environmental benefits, there are economic advantages. The solar garden will contribute to the town property tax base. Local consumers, through the Community Shared Solar program, will have the opportunity to purchase 100% renewable energy credits with anticipated savings of at least 10% on their electric bills.

Our goal is to preserve the farm while helping to preserve the environment. We have gone to great lengths to blend this solar garden into the community landscape while promoting a sustainable future for our community.

Please feel free to contact me or Daniel Bennett (315) 727-7306 with questions or if you would like to view the photos.

Sincerely,
Diane Muller
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