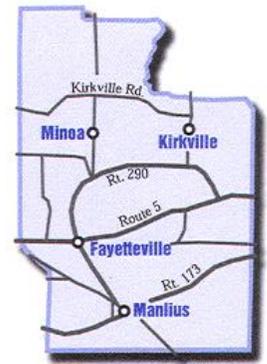


Town of Manlius

John Deer, Town Supervisor



Manlius Town Board Addresses Solar Law and Bowman Road Project Concerns

Manlius, NY – As we approach the March 23rd public hearing on proposed local law 2022-2, the Town Board would like to provide some background and address some concerns to ensure a productive meeting.

Local Law 2022-2 is an updated version of our Solar Law, which was passed in 2016, and amended previously in 2020. The amendments are based on feedback from a solar study group that was constituted when the Town was considering a solar moratorium in 2021. This law adds several regulations and codifies practices developed by the Planning Board when reviewing other projects. Included are regulations to limit clearing of mature trees, language encouraging native vegetation, and clear requirements for decommissioning of solar projects. In addition to these changes, a section has been added that sets aside solar installations on Town property to remain under the purview of the Town Board rather than be dispatched to the Planning Board.

This modification is following the guidance of New York State to encourage solar installations on landfills, following their declaration of projects like the Bowman Road project to be deemed as Type 2 actions under SEQR. This change makes it clear that projects like this are encouraged and seen as a best use for landfill sites.

The current Town Board campaigned on support for renewable energy, making it a clear legislative priority. In addition, projects directly affecting the Town's budget should be considered policy decisions, and therefore, under the purview of the Town Board. This change is in line with the board's legal responsibilities and follows a trend of reviewing board responsibilities and operational procedures to make our process more efficient.

The Bowman Road Solar Project has been in the works since April of 2020. This project has been reviewed during several public meetings. The Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board conducted a thorough Request for Proposal (RFP) including 14 different solar vendors, the town was able to sign an inter-municipal agreement that enabled us to take advantage of this RFP in the same way we buy our road salt on a state bid, and our equipment on a county bid.

We look forward to the Public Hearing on March 23rd, which will be held at ESM Central High School's auditorium at 6:30 PM located at 6400 Fremont Rd, East Syracuse, NY 13057. We urge residents to visit TownOfManlius.org to review the many documents related to this law and project. The voices and the future of this community matter to this Town Board, and we are committed to working with the public.

John Deer, Supervisor

Town Board – Sara Bollinger, Elaine Denton, Alissa Italiano, Katelyn Kriesel, Heather Allison Waters, William Nicholson