

From: Doug Tolles, citizen of New Haven, VT.

Re: Town of New Haven Town Plan Energy Section Determination request comments

June.tierney@vermont.gov

Ed.mcnamara@vermont.gov

July 18, 2017

Dear Commissioner Tierney and Director McNamara,

I would like to submit the following comments regarding the New Haven Town Plan energy section that is under consideration by the Public Service Department. This is in direct response to the written comments made by Sam Carlson – comments which are factually incorrect.

Mr. Carlson fails to mention that he has proposed two arrays in New Haven that violated the Town Plan in effect at the time of his submission. Mr. Carlson came to the New Haven Selectboard to force his projects on the Town. When the selectboard (in my presence) told Mr. Carlson that he would have to reduce the size of his projects and properly screen them, Mr. Carlson ignored the selectboard and pushed his projects on to the Public Service Board.

Carlson also fails to mention that he is a current defendant in a court case before the Vermont Supreme Court where the Town of New Haven is litigating to require him to comply with Vermont regulations. The Town of New Haven has had successful interactions with honest solar developers. Unfortunately, Mr. Carlson is not among the individuals we had have successful interactions with.

Carlson makes incorrect statements in his written comments. Specifically,

He writes that “no members of the Planning Commission were in attendance” at the PSD hearing in New Haven. That statement is blatantly false. Two members of the PC were in attendance – Bev Landon and Dan Monger. Mr. Monger spoke at the hearing.

Carlson claims that the Town Plan was prepared by the town's legal counsel and by me. That statement is false. The Plan was prepared by the entirety of the Planning Commission over an extended period of time involving multiple meetings and public input. In January, 2017 the selectboard again met with representatives of the Planning Commission. The PC issued a written document containing four requested changes, and the Selectboard adopted all four. Attorney Hill and I did work extensively on ensuring that the Town Plan was in compliance with the developing regulations. To insist, as Carlson does, that Hill and I wrote it alone while ignoring the stated wishes of the citizens of New Haven is laughable.

Carlson then goes on to intentionally misstate the track record of the New Haven Selectboard regarding solar projects in town. He writes that we have worked against all projects that met the requirements of the town plan and that were invisible to private and public views.

Those are outright lies. On at least four occasions, working with the developers, the Town of New Haven went on record with the PSB publicly supporting solar projects. Further, in no single instance has a solar project ever been proposed that is invisible to public and private views.

Carlson grossly misrepresents the polling of the Planning Commission regarding renewable energy. I was at that meeting where the polling was conducted – Carlson was not. Unfortunately for New Haven, certain developers like Carlson mis-size them, mis-place them, and fail to screen them. The poll result Carlson attempts to misrepresent clearly line up with the requirements in the new Town Plan. The wording on the Town Plan was directly built upon the public input. That is why it was supported by 70% of the voters at Town Meeting Day.

I can go on and on – but time constrains me. The deadline for submission of comments is this afternoon and I just received Mr. Carlson's comments.

Therefore, I request that you discard Mr. Carlson's comments due to their nature and content.

Sincerely,

Douglas Tolles

Former member, New Haven Selectboard