

From: [Diana Quast](#)
To: [Maura Weissleder](#)
Subject: FW: Jacob Rd Solar Project
Date: Friday, May 30, 2025 9:38:49 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

From: Ryan Hutcherson <rhutcherson@freestonemidstream.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Ed Lachterman <elachterman@yorktownny.gov>; Patrick Murphy <pmurphy@yorktownny.gov>; Sergio Esposito <sesposito@yorktownny.gov>; Susan Siegel <ssiegel@yorktownny.gov>; Luciana Haughwout <lhaughwout@yorktownny.gov>
Cc: Diana Quast <dquast@yorktownny.gov>
Subject: Jacob Rd Solar Project

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Dear Town Board Members,

I just wanted to clarify a couple of points before you all vote on the solar law, in hopes you all would find it possible to allow the Jacob Rd project to move forward. This is not a case of a developer attempting to bully their way through the permitting process. This is a case of several responsible parties creating a project where several hundreds of Yorktown Resident benefit. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the various town groups/agencies to ensure any solar development would meet the town's expectations and not be a detriment to society. Below are items we felt my need clarification or comment as it seems there may still be misunderstandings.

- **Yorktown Energy Users:** Freestone will allow Yorktown residents and businesses exclusive first access to the energy created from the Jacob Rd project. They will get a discount on all energy used from the project.
- **Battery Storage:** There will be no batter storage on this project. We understand the town's concerns and happily oblige. The panels themselves do not provide the same health and safety concerns and would not impose any additional health and safety risks to any adjacent parties.
- **Taxes:** Freestone has attempted to and would continue to engage the town's tax team to create a tax structure that works for the town.
- **Additional Benefits:** Similarly to taxes, Freestone would like to explore other direct town benefits through sponsorships, donations, events, etc. As an example, Freestone could help support sports teams at local schools, sponsor events in the town, host educational classes on energy/solar etc. I just name a few examples of how we hope to engage in the town to prove that these projects are really to the benefit of the people of Yorktown.
- **Grid Resilience:** There is still confusion as to where the electrons actually go. Regardless of who is buying the power, the electrons, like fluids (water and Air) will follow the path of least resistance and go to the first user down the line and so on. Community Solar projects connect into the smaller distribution lines that follow the roads and go to houses. They are not connected to the Transmission system, which are used to transmit energy long distances. There is no need for additional transmission infrastructure and further ground disturbance with Community Solar projects.

- **Panel Height:** Freestone has changed the design and panel type in order to comply with a contemplated 10-foot height restriction. We are still willing to utilize these same panels that provide a lower profile to provide the desired screening and concealment.
- **Project Location:** the visual impacts have been the most significant pushback to solar in general in Yorktown. As many of you on the Town Board have been to the location and are aware this cannot be seen from passersby on any road. Even for the neighboring homes, they would only ever see a green wall during the winter. Otherwise in full leaf on conditions, the project is concealed completely as we agreed to leave an extra 80' of existing forest.
- **Construction:** There was mention of planting trees prior to construction. After talking with the Civil Engineers, this could be possible on 1 or maybe 2 sides to start but the remaining sides of the project would still be used during the construction phase to allow access to panels and the racking systems. We are happy to explore those details during the planning process as well as entertain other construction protocols that may be beneficial.
- **Trees:** Most of the trees that are marked to be removed are not specimen species. Most are poorly grown and covered with vines, weeds and undergrowth. Freestone is expecting to plant an additional ~750 trees around the facility. The goal and hope is to source these trees from local vendors/nursery's.
- This is not a comprehensive list of all items related to the project that can be discussed. This was meant just to be an example of how willing Freestone has been and will continue to be to work with the various groups in Yorktown to make this a successful project and set the tone for any future development in the town of Yorktown.

While Freestone believes a full ban on ground mounted solar isn't the answer, we understand some of you still feel that way. We ask that, even if the ban is voted in and approved, that the Town allow the Jacob Rd project be grandfathered and allowed to move forward. We have been at the table for a long time now in good faith, working the various groups and parties in Yorktown to make this a great asset to the Town. I assure you all that we can make a great project and set the tone for any future development should there be any.

I am available at your convenience for any further discussion. I hope you all have a great weekend as well.

Ryan

Ryan Hutcherson | CEO

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