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Colchester Selectboard
June 13, 2023

ACTION SHEET

Solar Application Letter of Support

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Colchester Selectboard moves to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter supporting the application for the Fort Ethan Allen Solar Project, which the Colchester Selectboard approved permitting for on [March 28, 2023](#).



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www.colchestervt.gov

June 13, 2023

Vermont Public Utility Commission
Holly Anderson, Clerk of the Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Town of Colchester Solar Application – Letter of Support

Ms. Anderson:

The Town of Colchester planning Commission “Commission” is in receipt of a plan to develop a 150 kW solar project “Project” within a .85+/- fenced in area on an approximately 8.4 acre parcel located on a parcel on Rt. 15/ at 850 College Parkway which also includes Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery, in Colchester. The property has a **SPAN** of 153-048-17876 and a Map ID of 19-027001-0000000.

The Town Plan, on page 71 states, that the “Town should site another solar photo voltaic generation facility on Town land, so as to approach a goal of producing electrical energy close to the total amount consumed by the Town directly.” In 2019, the Selectboard named the Planning Commission the town Energy Committee and directed town staff to serve as the primary agents to implement energy efficiency improvements and local energy production and to recommend projects and project funding.

The Town of Colchester Selectboard voted on March 28, 2023 to provide the Town Manager with the authority to move forward with a contract to permit this Project on this parcel, a town owned site. The Selectboard has evaluated numerous sites in public meetings and considers/endorse "the project location as a "Preferred Site" under Section 5.103 of PUC Rule 5.100.

The Planning Commission/Energy Committee appreciates the Selectboard’s follow through on this important goal within the Town Plan and considers/endorse "the project location as a "Preferred Site" under Section 5.103 of PUC Rule 5.100.

Should the Public Utility Commission require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 802-264-5509. Thank you for your consideration.

Rich Paquette, Chair
Colchester Planning Commission

Pam Loranger, Chair
Colchester Selectboard