

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

MAUREEN E. MURPHY
Chief Administrative Law Judge
ANDREW M. BELT
Administrative Law Judge
DEREK J. BAUMGARDNER
Administrative Law Judge

December 27, 2023

Jason Vettori, Esquire – <u>jvettori@sgs-law.com</u> Smith, Gildea & Schmidt, LLC 600 Washington Avenue, Suite 200 Towson, MD 21204

RE: Petition for Special Exception

Case No. 2023-0215-X Property: Dowell Lane

Dear Mr. Vettori:

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the above-captioned matter.

Pursuant to Baltimore County Code § 32-3-401(a), "a person aggrieved or feeling aggrieved" by this Decision and Order may file an appeal to the County Board of Appeals within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 410-887-3868.

Sincerely.

ANDREW M. BELT Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

AMB:dlm Enclosure

C: Michael Redding mr@ecasolar.com

Jeff Zigler jzigler@clsimail.com

Matthew Jennette — mjennette@gtaeng.com

Monica Leslie ml@ecasolar.com

Andrew Bunnell ab@ecasolar.com

Jack Rowland — jr@ecasolar.com

Erin Bogdanovich eb@ecasolar.com

Thomas Kneeshaw — ckgallery@aol.com

IN RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL EXCEP	TION*	BEFORE THE
(Dowell Lane)		
11th Election District	*	OFFICE OF
5th Council District		
Jane White	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Legal Owner		
Kingsville Community Energy		FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Initiative, LLC	*	
Lessee		
	*	Case No: 2023-0215-X
Petitioners		
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#### **OPINION AND ORDER**

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") for consideration of a Petition for Special Exception filed on behalf of Jane White, legal owner and Kingsville Community Energy Initiative, LLC, lessee (the "Petitioners") for the property located at Dowell Lane (the "Property"). The Petition for Special Exception was filed pursuant to Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), §4F-102 *et seq.*, for a solar facility.

A public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person hearing. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Expert engineer, Michael Redding, PE. of ECA Solar, environmental science expert, Matthew Jennette, and expert land/site planner, Jeffrey T. Zigler of CLSI attended the hearing on behalf of Kingsville Community Energy Initiative, LLC. Jason Vettori, Esquire of Smith, Gildea & Schmidt, LLC represented the Petitioners.

Kingsville Resident, Thomas Kneeshaw, testified in opposition to the proposed relief.

Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comments were received from the Department of Planning ("DOP") and from Development Plans Review ("DPR") in conjunction with Department of Public Works and Transportation ("DPWT") which comments will be addressed in the Order.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The property is approximately 16.6768 acres and is zoned RC 5. It has been previously used as farmland and most recently for the harvesting of hay. The subject site is located southwest of Dowell Lane in Kingsville, Maryland.

Michael Redding was the first witness to testify for the Petitioners, (Pet. Ex. 7). Mr. Redding has been the Director of Civil Engineering for ECA Solar for three years. Mr. Redding has been involved in the developing, designing and constructing over 300 solar energy facilities throughout the United States. Kingsville Community Energy Initiative, LLC is the entity that will be operating the proposed solar facility. Mr. Redding testified that the site was elected in that it was already relatively flat, already cleared farmland. The subject site is located in the surrounding area of Bradshaw Road, Dowell Lane and McCubbin Avenue. Aerial photographs depict a densely forested area to the north and west. There is a parcel to the southeast of the property that is also owned by Jane White and will be purchased by the contract purchaser that is not part of the Special Exception area. (Pet. Ex. 6) There is a residence located on the Dowell Lane, near the Northeast corner of the proposed site, and residences to the north of the property, on the opposite side of McCubbin Avenue. (Pet. Ex. 12) The Special Exception area is 117 feet from closest dwelling on Dowell Lane.

Mr. Redding explained that the proposed project will generate 1.5 megawatts of electricity. The solar facility will be a fixed-tilt type array with its orientation in an east-west direction with the panels fixed at a 25-degree tilt facing south. The array will be held in place using driven posts and no excavation will be required to construct foundations. Minor grading will be necessary to reduce slopes to less than 10 percent and to smooth out and fill in irregular spots from the generated for the current farming practice. The surface beneath the solar panels will be restored

to a vegetative grass meadow cover. The racking will be assembled on top of the foundation posts followed by the placement of panels. The project will consist of approximately 3, 744 solar panels in total, one 20'x 90' concrete pad for electrical equipment, underground utility conduit which will travel underground off site to a BGE pole located on Bradshaw Road. An 8-foot-tall fence will surround the array and equipment. The array will be screened from public view using a 25-ft landscape buffer of evergreen trees and shrub vegetation along with a green, woven, mesh privacy fence. There is no smell emanating from the panels, and the "hum' of the converter which is akin to the noise made by a commercial air conditioner, which will be further muted by the construction of a wooden structure around it.

The access to the proposed facility will be located from an existing access entrance extending from Dowell Lane. The access will be improved with a 20-foot-wide drive and with a 16-foot gravel travel way. A hammer head turnaround will be provided to accommodate fire engines and utility trucks. The project will require 1 to 2 visits per quarter by a solar tech and or a landscaper. The proposed array with sit 6 feet off the ground on the low side and 15 feet on the high side. The Petitioners proposes the use of a galvanized knot-wire fence which is typically used by orchards and other agricultural farms. This type of fence allows for the migration of wildlife. The knot wire uses a 4 inch by 4 inch opening and there will be an 8-inch wide by 12 inch tall opening every one hundred feet to allow for pass through of larger wildlife such as foxes, rabbits and racoons.

Mr. Redding offered into evidence a Glare Analysis prepared by Barrett Energy Resources Group. Barret utilized the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool ("SGHAT"). (Pet. Ex. 4) For this project, SGHAT was utilized to assess glare in motorist receptors traveling on Dowell Lane, McCubbin Avenue and Bradshaw/Pfeffers Road, as well as on nearby businesses and residences,

14 receptors were used in total. A modeling report showed that the project registered no glare on any of the receptors analyzed. (Pet. Ex. 4) The receptors, which were concentrated to the north and east of the project are shield from the property by a forested area preventing glare impacts. Glare on the first receptor which is closest to the project to the east, will be mitigated through the installation of an evergreen landscape screen.

In regard to the requirements in BCZR, §4F-104. Mr. Zigler opined that the solar facility is not encumbered by an agricultural preservation easement, an environmental preservation easement, or a rural legacy easement, or located in a Baltimore County historic district or on a property that is listed on the Baltimore County Final Landmarks List. (BCZR, §4F-104.A.1 and 2) The above-ground components of the solar facility, including solar collector panels, inverters, and similar equipment, are set back a minimum of 50 ft. from the tract boundary. (BCZR, §4F-104.A.4). Mr. Zigler further clarified that the project will produce less than 2 megawatts, there are currently less than 10 solar facilities located within this councilmanic district and no structures will exceed 20 feet. (BCZR, §4F-104.A.5).

In regard to the installation of a landscaped buffer for adjacent residential properties, Mr. Jennette prepared illustrative renderings of the subject site with proposed landscaping. (Pet. Ex 2 a-g). A final landscape Plan will be filed with the County at a later date. In addition to the natural forest buffer already present on the site, the Petitioners have proposed an additional planting of staggered evergreens to further shield the residential properties to the north of the site off of McCubbin Avenue, and to the northeast of the site, including the Pearce Property. (Pet. Ex 3A). While the Department of Planning recommended the use of a black vinyl chain link fence, the Petitioners have proposed the use of a galvanized knot-wire fence typically used by orchards and agricultural farms that will better blend with the natural pine tree buffer in these areas. This

fencing is still in compliance with BCZR 4F-104.A.7. There is no lighting proposed for the facility. Lastly, the Site Plan is in compliance with BCC 33-1-108 (BCZR, 4F-104.A.9).

In regard to the Special Exception factors, BCZR, §502.1, Mr. Redding, Mr. Jennette and Mr. Zigler, together opined that the solar facility will not be detrimental to the health, safety or general welfare of the locality involved and stated that other than the solar panels which are ground mounted there are no impervious surfaces or lighting to be installed. The facility will be designed in accordance with the National Electric Code and the National Forest Protection Act. The facility will be constructed with a gang-operated -air-brake ("GOAB") as well as a recloser that allows the emergency disconnection of the facility from the grid that can be operated either manually or remotely. The solar array will be interconnected with the existing electric distribution lines that are located at the intersection of Dowell Lane and Bradford Road and an electrical conduit inserted. The conduit lines will remain underground will emerge above ground near a BGE pole on Bradford Road. The decibel level of the inverter equipment is approximately 50 dba and produces a slight hum. The hum is inaudible at a distance of 100 feet or greater. A wooden sound attenuating structure will be constructed on the north and east sides of the electrical equipment pad to further mute any noise.

The proposed use will not create congestion in roads, streets or alleys therein or tend to overcrowd the land or cause undue concentration of population because there are at most, seasonal trips to the solar facility per month for landscaping and lawn maintenance. Mr. Redding clarified that this is not a use which will generate people coming to the Property because the solar facility will be unoccupied. Access to the solar facility will be gained through Dowell Lane. No off-street parking spaces or parking lots or loading areas are proposed.

Mr. Jennette testified that the use will not create a potential hazard from fire, panic or other danger. The facility will be equipped with a quick-entry key system so the fire department can access the facility and provides adequate turn around for emergency equipment. The solar facility will not interfere with adequate provisions for schools, parks, water, sewerage, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences or improvements. Mr. Redding testified that the project will place no demands on the municipal services. The operation of the solar facility is minimal, under normal operation, visits to the facility include quarterly performance checks by a solar technician as well as by a landscaper for lawn and buffer maintenance. No off-street parking spaces or parking lots or loading areas are proposed. The project will use various low-impact development strategies to reduce water runoff and minimize impacts to water quality. The vegetative grassed meadow will provide substantial capacity to infiltrate rainwater and filter runoff before entering nearby streams or public facilities.

At 15 ft. maximum height and separated from residential properties, the solar facility will not cast shadows or block air flow, and therefore will not interfere with adequate light and air. Mr. Jennette opined that the proposed solar facility is consistent with the purposes of the property's zoning classification and not in any way inconsistent with the spirit and intent of BCZR, 4F as it is specifically permitted by Special Exception in an RC5 zone. The solar facility is also consistent with the impermeable surface and vegetative retention provisions of these Zoning Regulations as rain water will flow off the solar panels and will sink into the ground. There is no impermeable surface which will increase water flow.

Mr. Jennette testified that the use will not be detrimental to the environmental and natural resources of the site and vicinity including forests, streams, wetlands, aquifers and floodplains in an RC5 zone, as environmental resources will be protected by way of recorded easements. He

also explained the Petitioner will be entering into an additional forest conservation easement to the west of the property to preserve 4.7 acres of the property's forested character. Petitioners entered into evidence correspondence from the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability ("DEPS") confirming its approval of the Forest Stand Delineation, revised Wetland Delineation Verification, revised Steep Slope and Erodible Soils Analysis. DEPS suggested a minor change to the forest buffer limits to which the Petitioners will comply. (Pet. Ex. 11) Mr. Zigler also confirmed that in keeping with the DEPS ZAC comment, that an existing well will be backfilled and a well abandonment report will be submitted.

Kingsville resident, Thomas Kneeshaw, of 11 Kings Glen Court, Kingsville, Maryland 21087 testified in opposition of the Petitioners' Request for Special Exception. Mr. Kneeshaw explained that although he lives approximately a mile and a half from the subject site, he feels that the three already existing solar facilities in the Kingsville Area are enough. He explained that there are other facilities within a ¾ mile radius of the proposed facility and that the proposed solar facility is incompatible with the historic nature of the Kingsville Community. He further noted that the proposed facility was in close proximity to the historic St. Stephen Church. He explained that he had looked up Kingsville Community Energy Initiative, LLC on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation ("SDAT") business entity database and found the LLC is not to be in "good standing." No documentation regarding this issue was offered into evidence.

#### DECISION

On July 17, 2017, the County Council enacted Bill 37-17 permitting solar facilities by special exception in certain zones, including RC6. BCZR, §4F-102.A. The County Council imposed limits on the number of facilities per Councilmanic District (*i.e.* 10 per district), and on the maximum area for each facility (*i.e.* the amount of acreage that produces no more than 2

megawatts alternating current (AC) of electricity). BCZR, §4F-102.B.1 and 2. The Permits, Approvals and Inspections ("PAI") maintains a list of applications, Orders approving or denying solar facilities and number of building permits issued per Councilmanic District.

In addition to the Special Exception factors, there are 10 requirements set forth in BCZR, §4F-104.A:

- 1. The land on which a solar facility is proposed may not be encumbered by an agricultural preservation easement, an environmental preservation easement, or a rural legacy easement.
- 2. The land on which a solar facility is proposed may not be located in a Baltimore County historic district or on a property that is listed on the Baltimore County Final Landmarks List.
- 3. The portion of land on which a solar facility is proposed may not be in a forest conservation easement, or be in a designated conservancy area in an RC 4 or RC 6 Zone.
- 4. Aboveground components of the solar facility, including solar collector panels, inverters, and similar equipment, must be set back a minimum of 50 feet from the tract boundary. This setback does not apply to the installation of the associated landscaping, security fencing, wiring, or power lines.
- 5. A structure may not exceed 20 feet in height.
- 6. A landscaping buffer shall be provided around the perimeter of any portion of a solar facility that is visible from an adjacent residentially used property or a public street. Screening of state and local scenic routes and scenic views is required in accordance with the Baltimore County Landscape Manual.
- 7. Security fencing shall be provided between the landscaping buffer and the solar facility.
- 8. A solar collector panel or combination of solar collector panels shall be designed and located in an arrangement that minimizes glare or reflection onto adjacent properties and adjacent roadways, and does not interfere with traffic or create a safety hazard.
- 9. A petitioner shall comply with the plan requirements of § 33-3-108 of the County Code.
- 10. In granting a special exception, the Administrative Law Judge, or Board of Appeals on appeal, may impose conditions or

restrictions on the solar facility use as necessary to protect the environment and scenic views, and to lessen the impact of the facility on the health, safety, and general welfare of surrounding residential properties and communities, taking into account such factors as the topography of adjacent land, the presence of natural forest buffers, and proximity of streams and wetlands.

There are also provisions regarding maintenance of the facilities:

§ 4F-106. - Maintenance.

- A. All parties having a lease or ownership interest in a solar facility are responsible for the maintenance of the facility.
- B. Maintenance shall include painting, structural repairs, landscape buffers and vegetation under and around solar panel structures, and integrity of security measures. Access to the facility shall be maintained in a manner acceptable to the Fire Department. The owner, operator, or lessee are responsible for the cost of maintaining the facility and any access roads.
- C. Appropriate vegetation is permitted under and around the solar collector panels, and the tract may be used for accessory agricultural purposes, including grazing of livestock, apiculture, and similar uses.
- D. The provisions on this section shall be enforced in accordance with <u>Article 3</u>, <u>Title 6</u> of the County Code.

In order to grant a request for a special exception under BCZR, §502.1, it must appear that the use for which the special exception is requested will not:

- A. Be detrimental to the health, safety or general welfare of the locality involved;
- B. Tend to create congestion in roads, streets or alleys therein;
- C. Create a potential hazard from fire, panic or other danger;
- D. Tend to overcrowd land and cause undue concentration of population;
- E. Interfere with adequate provisions for schools, parks, water, sewerage, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences or improvements;
- F. Interfere with adequate light and air;
- G. Be inconsistent with the purposes of the property's zoning classification nor in any other way inconsistent with the spirit and intent of these Zoning Regulations;

- H. Be inconsistent with the impermeable surface and vegetative retention provisions of these Zoning Regulations; nor
- I. Be detrimental to the environmental and natural resources of the site and vicinity including forests, streams, wetlands, aquifers and floodplains in an R.C.2, R.C.4, R.C.5 or R.C.7 Zone.

In *Schultz v. Pritts*, 291 Md. 1, 22-23, 432 A.2d at 1331 (1981), the Court of Appeals held that "the appropriate standard to be used in determining whether a requested special exception use would have an adverse effect and therefore should be denied, is whether there are facts and circumstances that show that the particular use proposed at the particular location proposed would have any adverse effects above and beyond those inherently associated with such a special exception use irrespective of its location within the zone."

The Court of Appeals in *People's Counsel for Baltimore County v. Loyola College in Md.* 406 Md. 54, 106, 956 A.2d 166 (2008) upheld that longstanding *Shultz* analysis, explaining that a special exception use has "certain [inherent] adverse effects....[which] are likely to occur". In its analysis, the *Loyola* Court observed that "[t]he special exception adds flexibility to a comprehensive legislative zoning scheme by serving as a 'middle ground' between permitted use and prohibited uses in a particular zone." *Id.*, 406 Md. at 71, 956 A.2d at 176 (2008).

The Schultz and Loyola Courts, and more recently in Attar v. DMS Tollgate, LLC, 451 Md. 272, 285 (2017) have expressly recognized that "[a] special exception is presumed to be in the interest of the general welfare, and therefore a special exception enjoys a presumption of validity." (See also Loyola, 406 Md. at 84, 88; 105 Schultz, 291 Md. at 11). Based on this standard, once an applicant puts on its prima facie evidence in support of a special exception, the opponents must then "set forth sufficient evidence to indicate that the proposed [use] would have any adverse effects above and beyond those inherently associated with such use under the Schultz standard." Attar, 451 Md. at 287. (See Montgomery County v. Butler, 417 Md.271, 276-77 (2010) (opponent

must show "non-inherent adverse effects" to "undercut the presumption of compatibility enjoyed by a proposed special exception use"). (See also, Clarksville Residents Against Mortuary Defense Fund, Inc. v. Donaldson Properties, 453 Md. 516, 543 (2017) ("there is a presumption that the [special exception] use is in the interest of the general welfare, a presumption that may only be overcome by probative evidence of unique adverse effects").

Without repeating the uncontroverted evidence provided above, I find that the Petitioners have met each of the requirements in BCZR, §4F-104.A.1-9, as well as each of the Special Exception factors in BCZR, §502.1. The Glare Analysis Report confirmed that the proposed solar facility will not produce any glare on the adjacent homes or on adjacent roadways as discussed in BCZR, §4F-102.A.8. Based on the evidence presented, I find that the proposed solar facility here will be granted, subject to the conditions imposed in the Order.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this <u>27th</u> day of <u>December</u>, <u>2023</u> by this Administrative Law Judge, that the Petition for Special Exception from the BCZR, §502.1, §4F-102 *et seq*. and §4F-104 *et seq*., for a solar facility as set forth on the Site Plan (Pet. Ex. 1), be, and it is hereby **GRANTED**.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

- 1. Petitioners may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at its own risk until 30 days from the date hereof, during which time an appeal can be filed by any party. If for whatever reason this Order is reversed, Petitioners would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. The Site Plan (Pet. Ex. 1) shall be incorporated into and made a part of this Opinion and Order.
- 3. Petitioners must comply with the DOP comments, a copy of which are attached hereto and made a part thereof, except as follows:
  - a. Petitioners will be permitted to use a green, woven mesh covering on the fencing in the areas that buffer residential properties. (See fence photo in Pet.

Ex. 2) Petitioners will also be permitted to use a galvanized knot-wire fence typically used by orchards and agricultural farms to surround the property.

- 4. Per the condition requested by DEPS:
  - a. Prior to building permit approval any existing wells must be backfilled by a licensed Master Well Driller who must submit a well abandonment report to DEPS.
- 5. Prior to permitting, Petitioners must address with DPW&T its November 6, 2023 ZAC comment which is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

Any appeal of this decision must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

ANDREW M. BELT Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections
To the Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

Dowell Lane		<b>9</b>	2	ntly Zoned R	C 5	
Address Dowell Lane  Deed Reference 38909 / 00070			Currer count #111607594	ntiy Zoned <u>: :</u> N		
DCCG 1(8161616165		IU Digit Tax Ac	count#		W W	
Owner(s) Printed Name(s) Jane P. White						
(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING	X AT THE API	PROPRIATE S	ELECTION(S) AND AD	DING THE PI	ETITION REQUEST	7)
The undersigned, who own and occupy the property si hereof, hereby petition for an:	ituate in Baltimo	ore County and	which is described in th	e plan/plat att	ached hereto and m	nade a part
a Special Hearing under Section 50 or not the Zoning Commissioner should a		oning Regul	ations of Baltimore	County, to	determine whe	ther
2. a Special Exception under the Zon	ning Regulati	ons of Baltin	nore County to use	the herein	described prop	erty for
See attached.			e.			
3. a Variance from Section(s)						***************************************
Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed	ulty <u>or</u> indicument to this  BE PRES	cate below s petition) SENTED A	"TO BE PRESENT HEARING	ITED AT F	HEARING". If y	ou need
I/ we agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), adve Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning law Legal Owner(s) Affirmation: I / we do so solemnly do which is the subject of this / these Petition(s).	for Baltimore Co	ountv.				
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:	1	Legal Owne	rs (Petitioners):			
Todd Fryatt, Manager of Kingsville Community Energy Initia	ative LLC .	Jane P. Whit	е			
Name - Type of Print Todd Fryatt		Vame #1 – Type		Na	me #2 – Type or Pr	int
Signature NA-III		Signature #1	not Mill Dood		Signature # 2 Bel Air	MD
203 Crescent St., Ste 106 Waltham Mailing Address City		Vailing Address	ect Mill Road		City	State
02453 / 603-494-6801 / mr@ecasolar.	_	21015 /		1	•	
Zip Code Telephone # Email Add		Zip Code	Telephone #'s (Cell a	nd Home)	Email Addre	ess
Attorney for Petitioner:	F	Representat	ive to be contact	ed:		
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#### **ATTACHMENT TO PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING**

Dowell Lane (Tax ID No. 1116075940) Case No.: 2023-\_\_\_\_-

#### Special Exception relief for:

- 1. A solar facility as provided in BCZR § 4F-102; and
- 2. For such other and further relief as may be deemed necessary by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County.

439 East Main Street Westminster, MD 21157-5539



Voice: 410.848.1790 Fax: 410.848.1791

Tax ID # 11-1116075940

# SCHEDULE "A" DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL 310 South of Bradshaw Road, West of Pfeffers Road Near Kingsville, Election District No. 11, Baltimore County, Maryland

October 9, 2023

**BEGINNING FOR THE SAME** at a Stone found, said Stone being at the end of the 1st or S 02° 31' 40" E 797.94 foot line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between Louis Leo Rutkowski, Charles Leonard Rutkowski, James B. Taylor, Sr., aka James B. Taylor, aka James Brice Taylor Sr., Nancy Rutkowski Ertwine aka Nancy Lee Rutkowski Ertwine, Edward F. Rutkowski, Jr. unto The Maryland Transportation Authority, dated August 27, 2009 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County, Maryland in Liber 28793, Folio 257; thence, running reversely and binding with a portion of said 4th line of Liber 28793, Folio 257, as surveyed by CLSI, with all bearings herein being referenced to the Maryland Coordinate System (NAD'83-1991), as follows,

- 1. N 04° 52' 08" W for 369.62 feet to a Stone found, said Stone being at the end of the 4th or S 81° 25' E 646.9' foot line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between William D. McLaughlin and Camile P. McLaughlin unto Deborah L. Skillman and Abigail Skillman, dated July 11, 2018 and recorded among said Land Records in Liber 40458, Folio 336; thence, leaving said 1st line of Liber 28793, Folio 257 and running reversely and binding with said 4th line of Liber 40458, Folio 336.
- 2. N 72° 38′ 24″ E for 565.81 feet to a Stone found, said Stone being at the beginning of the S 81° 30′ E 85 perches line of Plat entitled McCubbin Park recorded in said Land Records in Plat Book 7 at Page 160, said Stone also being at the beginning of the 4th or S 81 1/2° E 85 perches line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between Edward Donaldson and Florence E. Donaldson unto George B. Monmonier and Annie L. Monmonier, dated March 30, 1918 and recorded among said Land Records in Liber 497, Folio 97; thence, leaving said 4th line of Liber 40458, Folio 336 and binding with a portion of said S 81° 30′ E 85 perches line of said Plat and a portion of the 4th line of said Liber 497, Folio 97,
- 3. **S 87° 54' 44" E** for **449.16 feet** to a Rebar and Cap set, said Rebar and Cap being at the northwestern end of Dowell Lane; thence leaving said Plat line and said 4<sup>th</sup> line of Liber 497, Folio 97, and binding on said northwestern end of Dowell Lane.
- 4. **S 02° 05' 16" W** for **20.19 feet** to a Mag Nail found, said Mag Nail being at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or N 05° 30' E 186-88/100 foot line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between Bank of New York Mellon, formerly known as Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificatesholders CWALT, Inc unto James H. Pearce, III, Penny J. Pearce and James H. Pearce, Jr., dated August 28, 2009 and recorded among said Land Records in Liber 28759, Folio 405; thence, leaving said the northwestern end of Dowell Lane and running reversely and binding with said Liber 28759, Folio 405 the next two (2) lines,
- 5. S 02° 47' 41" E for 186.92 feet to a Rebar and Cap found; thence,

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439 East Main Street Westminster, MD 21157-5539



Voice: 410.848.1790 Fax: 410.848.1791

Tax ID # 11-1116075940

- 6. S 85° 13' 17" E for 199.12 feet to a Rebar and Cap found, said Rebar and Cap being on the 4th or S 24° 36' W 539.03 foot line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between Robert R. White, Sr. unto Robert R. White, Sr. and Jane P. White, dated April 12, 2017 and recorded among said Land Records in Liber 38909, Folio 70; thence, leaving the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of said Liber 28759, Folio 405 and binding with a portion of the 4th, the 5th and 6th of said Liber 38909, Folio 70,
- 7. S 14° 27' 43" W for 338.96 feet to a Rebar and Cap set; thence,
- 8. N 83° 57' 08" W for 292.64 feet to a Rebar and Cap set; thence,
- 9. S 06° 09' 57" E for 354.77 feet passing over a 5/8" Iron Pipe found at the end of 174.75 feet to a Rebar and Cap found, said Rebar and Cap being at end of the 3rd or S 02° 16' W 354-13/100 foot line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between Paul Murray, Personal Representative of the Estate of Catherine D. Murray unto Paul Murray, dated April 8, 2009 and recorded among said Land Records in Liber 27902, Folio 128, said Rebar and Cap being also being on the 3rd or S 74° 08' 00" E 931.50 foot line of the tract of land described in a deed by and between Louis Leo Rutkowski, Charles Leonard Rutkowski, James B. Taylor, Sr., aka James B. Taylor, aka James Brice Taylor Sr., Nancy Rutkowski Ertwine aka Nancy Lee Rutkowski Ertwine, Edward F. Rutkowski, Jr. unto The Maryland Transportation Authority, dated August 27, 2009 and recorded among said Land Records in Liber 28793, Folio 257; thence, leaving said 3rd line of Liber 28759, Folio 405 and running reversely and binding with said Liber 28793, Folio 257 the next two (2) lines,
- 10. N 82° 34' 07" W for 444.47 feet to a Rebar found; thence,
- 11. N 52° 34' 55" W for 486.05 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 726,439 square feet or 16.6768 Acres of land, more or less, as shown on Schedule 'B' attached hereto and made part thereof by this reference.

**BEING** that same tract of land as described in a deed by and between Robert R. White, Sr. unto Robert R. White, Sr., and Jane P. White, dated April 12, 2017 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County, Maryland in Liber 38909, Folio 70 as Parcel 1 (Acct. No. 11-1116075940) 2<sup>nd</sup> Parcel and also being a portion of the 1<sup>st</sup> parcel of said Parcel 1 (Acct. No. 11-1116075940).

This metes & bounds description and the work reflected in it were prepared by me or under my responsible charge and comply with the requirements set forth in the Maryland Minimum Standards for Professional Land Surveyors (COMAR 09.13-06.08 and .12).

Javier Morales Roldan

. . .

Date

Professional Land Surveyor, Maryland Registration No. 21885

My License expires August 09, 2025.



### DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

#### ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u> (BCZR) require that notice be given to the general public/neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property (responsibility of the legal owner/petitioner) and placement of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, both at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing.

Zoning Review will ensure that the legal requirements for advertising are satisfied. However, the legal owner/petitioner is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. The newspaper will bill the person listed below for the advertising. This advertising is due upon receipt and should be remitted directly to the newspaper.

#### OPINIONS MAY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL ADVERTISING COSTS ARE PAID.

For Newspaper Advertising: Case Number: _ <u>2623~の2/5~</u>
Property Address: Dowell Lane
Property Description: Tax Account No. 1116075940 (Southwest Sile of Douell Lange
Legal Owners (Petitioners):     Jane P. White   Contract Purchaser/Lessee:   Kingsville Community Energy Initiative LLC   Contract Purchaser/Lessee:   Contract P
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO: Name:   Jack Rowland
Company/Firm (if applicable): Kingsville Community Energy Initiative LLC Address: 282 Moody Street, #202
Waltham, MA 02453
Telephone Number: (781) 812-6082 or jr@ecasolar.com

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Maryland The Daily Record 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD, 21202 Phone: 4435248100



#### **Affidavit of Publication**

To: Kingsville Community Energy Initiative, LLC - Jack Rowland

> 282 Moody Street, , #202 Waltham, MA, 02453

Legal Notice 2558529, Re:

CASE NUMBER: 2023-0215-X

We hereby certify that the annexed advertisement was published in Maryland The Daily Record, a Daily newspaper

in the State of Maryland 1 time(s) on the following date(s): 11/30/2023

Joy Hough Authorized Designee of the Publisher

#### **Baltimore County**

#### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Administrative Law Judge of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a virtual hearing on the property identified herein as follows:

CASÉ NUMBER: 2023-0215-X

Dowell Lane

Southwest side of Dowell Lane

11th Election District - 5th Councilmanic District

Legal Owner: Jane White

Contract Purchaser/Lessee: Kingsville Community Energy Initiative, LLC Special Exception for a Solar Facility as provided in BCZR, Sec. 4F-102 and for such other and further relief as may be deemed necessary by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County.

Hearing: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

For information on how to participate in the hearings please go to www. baltimorecountymd/gov/adminhearings no later than 48 hours prior to the hearing. You will be asked to provide your contact information and the case number provided above. You may also call 410-887-3868, ext. 0. n30 2558529

#### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:

C. Pete Gutwald

DATE: 11/3/2023

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM:

Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2023-0215-X

**INFORMATION:** 

Property Address: Dowell Lane

Jane P. White

Petitioner: Zoning:

RC 5

Requested Action: Special Exception

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petition for the following:

Special Exception relief for-

a. A solar facility as provided in the BCZR Section 4F-102; and

b. For such other and further relief as may be deemed necessary by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County.

The property is located in the surrounding area of Bradshaw Road, Dowell Lane and McCubbin Avenue. The property encompasses approximately 16.68 acres of land and is zoned as RC 5. Currently, it is unimproved with forest. Factories, residential dwellings, farms and forest conservation characterize the surrounding area.

The establishment of the RC 5 zoning classification was a direct response to concerns surrounding inefficient and disorderly rural-residential development, as well as the inadequate sizing of lots for on-lot sewer and water systems. These issues have the potential to impose significant financial burdens and compromise the safety and well-being of local residents. The primary objective of designating specific areas suitable for rural-residential development is to channel future growth towards these designated regions and prevent chaotic and unplanned development patterns. The RC 5 zoning classification effectively serves this purpose by providing appropriate areas for rural-residential development, minimizing encroachments on natural resources, and enforcing minimum lot sizes to ensure the effective functioning of on-lot sewer and water systems.

The requested relief for a Special Hearing for a solar facility does not appear to pose any risks to the character of the RC 5 zoning classification. Therefore, the Department of Planning does not object to the requested relief and defers the final decision to the Administrative Law Judge. However, it should be noted that the applicant must ensure the proposed solar facility complies with the following:

1. Proposed perimeter fence shall be black vinyl coated chain-link fence.

- 2. Submit a solar glare analysis and letter from an expert of the solar company confirming the finding of said analysis and that glare will not impact the surrounding residential properties and the public road
- 3. Petitioners shall certify by note on the plan that the proposed solar facility will not exceed the maximum permitted number of facilities allowed in its respective councilmanic district. If approved, Petitioners shall submit to this Department at the time of building permit application the final fixed location and area of the facility by coordinate data so that an inventory may be kept.
- 4. Lighting shall be limited to what is required for security purposes only and will be sited in such a way as to have minimal spillage onto neighboring properties.
- 5. Signage shall be limited to that which is necessary for safety and security purposes.
- 6. No deliveries or outdoor maintenance which may generate excessive noise may occur on-site between the hours of 6 P.M. through 6 A.M.
- 7. Indicate on the plan the means and location by which the solar facility connects to the power grid and whether grading or clearing will be involved.
- 8. The Department supports the Baltimore County Landscape Architect in planting requirements deemed necessary to include interior contour screening and other planting schemes that will mitigate any visual impact of the special exception proposal.

For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Henry Ayakwah at 410-887-3482.

Division Chief:

Prepared by:

Krystle Patchak

SL/JGN/KP

c: Jason T. Vettori
Joe Wiley & Abigail Rogers, Community Planners
Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review
Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review
Office of Administrative Hearings
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

#### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### **Inter-Office Correspondence**



TO:

Hon. Paul M. Mayhew; Managing Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM:

Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (DEPS) - Development Coordination

DATE:

November 6, 2023

SUBJECT:

DEPS Comment for Zoning Item

# 2023-0215-X

Address:

Dowell Lane

Legal Owner: Jane White

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of November 6, 2023.

- X The Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability offers the following comments on the above-referenced zoning item:
- 1. If the zoning variance is granted, Groundwater Management requests that it be conditioned to include the following:
  - a. Prior to building permit approval any existing wells must be backfilled by a licensed Master Well Driller who must submit a well abandonment report to DEPS.

Reviewer:

Rochelle V. Underwood, Groundwater Management

- 2. Development of the property must comply with all requirements of Baltimore County Code, Article 33, Title 3, Protection of Water Quality, Streams, Wetlands and Floodplains.
- 3. Development of this property must comply with Baltimore County Code, Article 33, Title 6, Forest Conservation.

Reviewer:

Paul Dennis, Environmental Impact Review

#### **BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

#### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: November 6, 2023

TO:

Peter Gutwald, Director

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM:

Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

**Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting** 

For November 6, 2023 Item No. 2023-0215-X

The Bureau of Development Plans Review has reviewed the subject zoning items and we have the following comments.

#### **DPW&T Comments:**

A) An ultimate land use conditions riverine flood study meeting the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) Design Manual and the Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspections (PAI) Bureau of Development Plans Review Policy Manual is required and must be submitted to PAI to be "Accepted for Filing". The applicant may be required to apply for a Zoning Hearing with the Administrative Law Judge to obtain a waiver to Baltimore County Code 32-4-414 and 32-8.

Landscape & Open Space comments:

Need detailed site plan for review prior to hearing.



 $1^{\rm st}$  SIGN  $2^{\rm ND}$  SIGN POSTED @ DOWELL LANE  $\sim 11/29/2023$  CASE # 2023-0215-X

# CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

ATTENTION: KRISTEN LEWIS

DATE: 11/29/2023

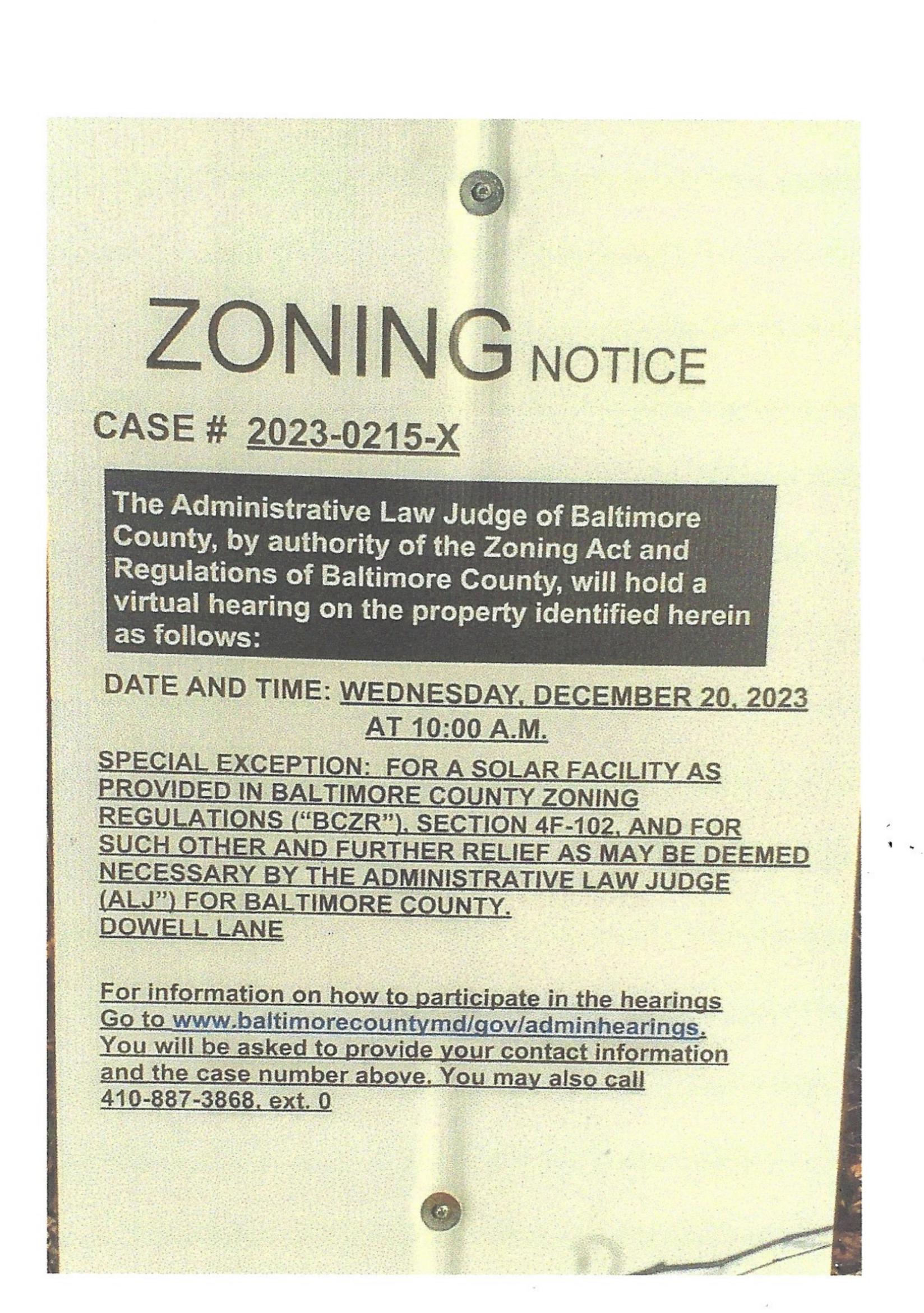
Case Number: 2023-0215-X

Petitioner / Developer: SMITH, GILDEA & SCHMIDT, LLC

Date of Hearing: DECEMBER 20, 2023

This is to certify under the penalties of perjury that the necessary sign(s) required by law were posted conspicuously on the property located at: <a href="DOWELL LANE">DOWELL LANE - (ON-SITE)</a>

The sign(s) were posted on: NOVEMBER 29,2023



(Signature of Sign Poster)

Linda O'Keefe

(Printed Name of Sign Poster)

523 Penny Lane

(Street Address of Sign Poster)

Hunt Valley, MD 21030

(City, State, Zip of Sign Poster)

410-666-5366

(Telephone Number of Sign Poster)

#### **BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

#### **Inter-Office Correspondence**



TO: Hon. Paul M. Mayhew; Managing Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM: Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (DEPS) - Development Coordination

DATE: November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2023-0215-X

Address: Dowell Lane Legal Owner: Jane White

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of November 6, 2023.

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- 1. If the zoning variance is granted, Groundwater Management requests that it be conditioned to include the following:
  - a. Prior to building permit approval any existing wells must be backfilled by a licensed Master Well Driller who must submit a well abandonment report to DEPS.

Reviewer: Rochelle V. Underwood, Groundwater Management

- 2. Development of the property must comply with all requirements of Baltimore County Code, Article 33, Title 3, Protection of Water Quality, Streams, Wetlands and Floodplains.
- 3. Development of this property must comply with Baltimore County Code, Article 33, Title 6, Forest Conservation.

Reviewer: Paul Dennis, Environmental Impact Review

## BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** C. Pete Gutwald **DATE:** 11/3/2023

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

**FROM:** Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2023-0215-X

**INFORMATION:** 

**Property Address:** Dowell Lane **Petitioner:** Jane P. White

**Zoning:** RC 5

Requested Action: Special Exception

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petition for the following:

Special Exception relief for-

a. A solar facility as provided in the BCZR Section 4F-102; and

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For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Henry Ayakwah at 410-887-3482.

**Division Chief:** 

Prepared by:

Krystle Patchak

SL/JGN/KP

c: Jason T. Vettori
Joe Wiley & Abigail Rogers, Community Planners
Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review
Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review
Office of Administrative Hearings
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

#### Real Property Data Search () Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map

View GroundRent Redemption

View GroundRent Registration

Special Tax Recapture: AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX

Account Identifier:

District - 11 Account Number - 1116075940

**Owner Information** 

Owner Name:

Mailing Address:

WHITE ROBERT R SR

**AGRICULTURAL** Principal Residence: NO

WHITE JANE P

11829 STONEY BATTER RD Deed Reference:

/38909/ 00070

KINGSVILLE MD 21087-1251

**Location & Structure Information** 

Premises Address:

DOWELL LN

Legal Description: 20.902 AC W

KINGSVILLE 21087-

END DOWELL LANE 115 N PFEIFFER ROAD

Map: Grid: Parcel: Neighborhood: Subdivision: Section: Block: Lot: Assessment Year: Plat No:

0064 0009 0310 11010005.04

0000

2024

Plat Ref:

Town: None

Primary Structure BuiltAbove Grade Living AreaFinished Basement AreaProperty Land AreaCounty Use

Storles Basement Type Exterior Quality Full/Half Bath Garage Last Notice of Major Improvements

#### Value Information

	Base Value	Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		As of 01/01/2021	As of 07/01/2023	As of 07/01/2024	
Land:	7,800	7,800			
Improvements	5,600	5,600			
Total:	13,400	13,400	13,400		
Preferential Land:	7,800				

#### Transfer Information

Seller: WHITE ROBERT R	Date: 05/01/2017	Price: \$0 Deed2:
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER	Deed1: /38909/ 00070	
Seller: WHITE ROBERT RAG USE 83-84		Price: \$0 Deed2:
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER	Deed1: /06417/ 00237	
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

#### **Exemption Information**

Partial Exempt Assessments:	Class	07/01/2023	07/01/2024
County:	000	0.00	
State:	000	0.00	
Municipal:	000	0.00]	0.00

Special Tax Recapture: AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX

#### **Homestead Application Information**

Homestead Application Status: No Application

#### Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Information

Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Status: No Application Date:

2023-0215-X

