



PHOTOS BY RICHARD W. DIONNE JR.

## Planners call for repeal of solar ordinance

*Pending repeal, solar developers crowd starting line*

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TIVERTON — The planning board last Tuesday, October 9, recommended that the town council repeal a solar ordinance the council had unanimously adopted on March 12, 2018, and that went into effect on that date (as Zoning Article XXIV Solar Photovoltaic System Development).

The repeal was recommended in order to allow time for the council, and planning and other town officials, time to amend the zoning ordinance in such a way as to address an influx of large-scale solar projects and solar building permits filed in recent months.

**"We now have four major solar proposals banging on our door ... I'm feeling a little overwhelmed."**

PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN  
STUART HARDY

"We now have four major solar proposals banging on our door," said Planning Board Chairman Stuart Hardy at the meeting. "I'm feeling a little overwhelmed."

Even with a repeal agreed upon, it will take time to accomplish the repeal, considering notice requirements for public hearings, an intervening election of new council members and their swearing it, and so on. Until the existing ordinance is actually repealed and a new ordinance is adopted in its place, it is possible that consideration of solar development proposals proceed under the existing ordinance.

In calling for a repeal, the planning board's recommendation, made known at Tuesday's special meeting of the planning board, appeared to go further than the council had requested at its meeting on September 24.

Instead of recommending a temporary moratorium on solar development in Tiverton, which is what the council appeared to originally have asked for from the planning board — a temporary mora-

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## Tiger shenanigans

Tiverton High School students dressed as characters Tuesday as part of Spirit Week activities leading up to Homecoming. Above, sophomore Jarred Rogers, dressed as a bright yellow bee, gets some grief from friends during lunch. **RIGHT:** Chandni Patel (left) as Superman, Brenna Vieira as the Pope, and Fred Bebe dressed as his sister Danica Bebe (standing right), the school's senior class president, stand next to the Future Business Leaders table. Culminating the week will be the Homecoming football game Friday evening at 7.



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# SOLAR: Planning Board aims for pause in solar rush

From Page 1



An estimated 101.7 acres (over two lots) in the area of 350-394 Brayton Road is proposed to host ground-mounted solar panels. The area is zoned R-80 and is just north of the area that had been previously proposed for a motocross track.

## Tiverton pending solar projects

(As of 10-12-2018)

"All of these projects are considered Major Land Developments; therefore, each of them will require a) Master Plan approval, b) Preliminary Plan approval, and c) Final Plan approval by the Planning Board," said William Compton, Tiverton Town Planner.

■ 1) Wingover project (1519 Crandall Road)

72 acres (35 usable); Master Plan approved Sept. 11; R-80 zoned; Installation conditioned upon utility approval of interconnection.

■ 2) Fogland project (4366 Main Road) 19.12 acres (15.22 usable); Informal concept plan presented October 2, 2018; R-80 zoned

■ 3) Brayton Road project (394 Brayton Road); 101 acres; Informal concept plan to be presented November 14, 2018; R-80 zoned.

■ 4) Stafford Road project (960 Stafford Road); 62.5 acres; R-60 zoned; No appearance dates set yet before planning board.

In addition to the above four major land development solar projects, according to the town building and zoning office an estimated 4-6 building permits are pulled each month for roof-mounted solar displays.

Residents there have protested several in particular that have proposed clear cutting large swaths of woodlands in the midst of residential and agricultural areas. Drainage and the "industrial" appearance of the farms are also issues.

torium recommendation along with its suggestions for revisions to the solar ordinance — the planning board simply told the council that a moratorium would be unlawful — that it couldn't be done.

"A moratorium would make a lot more sense but we just can't do it," Mr. Hardy said.

The planning board made its repeal recommendation based on an opinion from the town solicitor issued September 25, the day after the council had made its request (September 24) to the planning board for its recommendations about revisions.

And the solicitor's opinion about the invalidity of any possible moratorium was issued before the planning board posted an announcement of its special meeting October 9 to consider a moratorium and recommendations.

As the letter from Planning Board Chairman Hardy to the Town Council, dated October 10 (the day after the planning board's special meeting) put it:

"... the Town cannot legally enact an interim moratorium. However, the Town Council can repeal the current Ordinance through the zoning amendment process provided the Planning Board makes a recommendation to that effect, three weeks of public notice is given and a Town Council Public hearing is scheduled."

The planning board made findings of fact upon which it says it based its actions. They included:

■ That "the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources is very near adoption of a

model municipal solar energy ordinance that provides Rhode Island communities with policy guidance and should help us develop possible improvements;"

■ That "much new and helpful information based on the recent solar energy experiences of other communities in the state is now available to the planning board;"

■ That a moratorium "is not a legal option, but that a repeal is a viable alternative providing time to redraft the current

ordinance language."

■ That revisions of the existing ordinance must be consistent with the 2018 Tiverton Comprehensive Community Plan update.

### Similar issues next door

Neighboring towns, especially Westport, are grappling with similar issues in the face of an onslaught of solar farm applications.

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**Allens Roasting Chickens** **79¢** lb.

Fresh Throughout the Day!  
Family Pack Ground Chuck ..... **\$2.99** lb.

USDA Choice Sirloin Tips ..... **\$9.95** lb.

USDA Choice Back Rump or Bottom Round Roast ..... **\$3.99** lb.

USDA Grade A Chicken Stir Fry ..... **\$3.99** lb.

Hummel Smoked Half Shoulders ..... **\$1.79** lb.

Thick & Meaty **WOW!**  
**Country Style Spare Ribs** ..... **\$1.59** lb.

**WOW!**  
**USDA Choice Beef for Stew** **\$3.99** lb.

Tom's Sausage & Apple Stuffed Chicken Breast ..... **\$4.99** lb.

Boar's Head Bratwurst or Knockwurst ..... **\$4.99** pkg.

Tom's Own Chicken Sausage ..... **\$3.99** lb.

Beyond Burger Plant Based Burgers ..... **\$4.99** pkg.

All Natural Al Fresco Breakfast Sausage ..... **\$2.99** pkg.

### GROCERY

All regularly Priced **\$1.69** Varieties  
**Barilla Pasta** **10/\$10**

Post, 11 oz. Fruity or Cocoa Pebbles ..... **2/\$4**

15-24 oz. Classico Pasta Sauce ..... **2/\$4**

Excludes Veggie Classics  
Progresso Traditional Soups ..... **2/\$3**

28 oz. Contadina Tomatoes ..... **4/\$5**

32 oz. College Inn Broths ... **3/\$7**

Excludes Organics

15 oz. **WOW!**  
**Hytop Breadcrumbs** ..... **10/\$10**

14.5 oz. **Del Monte Diced or Stewed Tomatoes** **10/\$10**

16.9 oz., Excludes Organics  
Fillipo Berio Olive Oil ..... **\$3.99**

17.5 oz. Betty Crocker Cookie Dough Pouches ..... **2/\$4**

16 oz. Betty Crocker Frosting ..... **3/\$5**

All Varieties Keebler Cookies ..... **2/\$6**

18 oz. Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce ..... **\$1.69**

### PREPARED

**Jumbo Chicken Parm Meatballs** **\$5.99** lb.

Tom's Pasta & Bean Soup .. **\$6.99** qt.

Delicious Baked Penne with Sausage ..... **\$4.99** lb.

Jumbo Pulled Chicken and Rice Burritos ..... **\$4.99** ea.

Fontina Infused Risotto Cakes ..... **\$2.99** ea.

Tom's Own Chili Boules ..... **\$6.99** ea.

**WOW!**  
**Stuffed Shells** ..... **10/\$10**

**Tom's Famous Fish & Chips** **\$7.99** lb.

Delicious Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges ..... **\$4.99** lb.

Jumbo Stuffed Veal Cutlets ..... **\$6.99** lb.

For the Game!  
BBQ Burnt Rib Ends ..... **\$4.99** lb.

A Favorite!  
Fried Bologna & Onions ..... **\$3.99** lb.

Sliced Mediterranean Style Pork Loin ..... **\$5.99** lb.

### PRODUCE

**WOW!**  
**Fresh Imported Tender Thin Asparagus** **\$2.99** lb.

Fresh Express, 12 oz. Bag Iceberg Garden Salad Mix ..... **2 Bags/\$3**

Bursting with Flavor!  
Pint Cont., Sweet Crunchy Grape Tomatoes ..... **2/\$5**

6 oz. Package, Sweet Ripe Raspberries or Blackberries ..... **\$2.99** pkg.

Rhode Island Grown!  
Snow White Cauliflower ..... **\$2.99** hd.

Sweet Crunchy, Red or Green Seedless Grapes ..... **\$2.49** lb.

**WOW!**  
**Extra Fancy Red La Rouge Peppers** **\$1.99** lb.

**WOW!**  
**Locally Grown!! Macintosh, Cortland or Royal Gala Apples** **99¢** lb.

Jumbo, Tangy Red Onions ..... **99¢** lb.

Rhode Island Grown!  
Green Cabbage ..... **49¢** lb.

5 lb. Bag, Sweet Crunchy Carrots ..... **\$2.49** bg.

10 oz. Package Franklin Farms Veggie Burgers .... **\$3.99** pkg.

15.2 oz. Bottle Kevita Kombucha Drinks ..... **\$3.99**

### DAIRY/FROZEN

7 oz. **Chobani Yogurt Drinks** **10/\$10**

16 oz. **Hood Light Cream** **2/\$4**

8 oz. Kraft Shredded Cheese ..... **2/\$4**

4-6 oz. Yoplait Yogurt ..... **10/\$6**

7.5-8 oz. Philadelphia Cream Cheese Tubs ..... **2/\$6**

13.5-32 oz. **Alexia Potatoes** ..... **2/\$6**

12 oz. **Hershey Milkshakes** **10/\$10**

48 oz. Turkey Hill Ice Cream ..... **\$2.99**

All regular Priced **\$1.99** Varieties  
Birdseye Bag Veggies ..... **2/\$3**

Varieties Klondike Bars ..... **2/\$6**

### DELI

**WOW!**  
**Fresh Sliced German Bologna** **\$1.99** lb.

Tom's Own Thanksgiving Style Turkey ..... **\$8.99** lb.

Kretschmar Swiss Cheese ..... **\$6.99** lb.

Boar's Head Lo-Sodium Ham ..... **\$8.99** lb.

Hummel **WOW!**  
**Rare & Juicy Roast Beef** ..... **\$7.99** lb.

**WOW!**  
**Kretschmar Spiral Recipe Ham** **\$4.99** lb.

Boar's Head Vermont Cheddar Cheese ..... **\$5.99** lb.

Kretschmar Bacon Crusted Turkey ..... **\$6.99** lb.

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12 Pk. Grab the Beans! Mini Corn Bread ..... **\$4.99** pkg.

**NEW!**  
**Cranberry Orange Loaf Cake** ..... **\$3.99** ea.

**WOW!**  
**Grab the Butter Steamers** **\$3.99** lb.

Wild Caught Scrod ..... **\$7.99** lb.

Sweet & Succulent Bay Scallops ..... **\$8.99** lb.

**WOW!**  
**Loyster & Scallop Stuffed Shrimp** **\$1.99** ea.