

**TOWN OF WHEATLAND  
PLANNING BOARD MINUTES  
May 3, 2022**

Members present: Mike Grasso, Kane Gascon, Laura Michaels, Tim Steves  
And Jay Coates

Members absent: Joseph Burns, Robert Hatch

Also present: Terry Rech, Building Inspector  
Raymond DiRaddo, Attorney for the Town

Chairman Coates called the Town of Wheatland Planning Board meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

M. Grasso made a motion to approve the Town of Wheatland Planning Board minutes from 4/5/2022, seconded by L. Michaels and approved as follows:

Mike Grasso -aye  
Laura Michaels -aye  
Jay Coates -aye  
Time Steves -aye  
Kane Gascon - aye

**Old Business:**

➤ ***AES - Ravich Solar***

They pulled their application.

➤ **Bodhi Solar Project**

Bridget Cuddihy and Mark Sweeny were present to share updates on the project.

- They are working through the final stages for SHPPO concurrence.
- The engineering Department is reviewing the Geotech report.
- They have revised 1 of the 3 critical viewpoints. They are meeting internally to discuss the other critical viewpoints.

Ms. Cuddihy said that she hopes to have these things done by next week. She stated that their Engineers are working through the Town Engineer's comments. She is expecting to have all those worked into the site plan and the SWPPP by the 13<sup>th</sup>. They will then be able to issue their formal response.

J. Coates said that he will be sharing information on Teams regarding Visual screening. He stated that most of the Public Hearing statements from residents have related to the visual aspect.

The following email remark was sent in to be entered into the record:

**From:** John Love  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2022 11:27  
**To:** Jay Coates  
**Subject:** Solar Farm - Requests of John and Marjorie Love

Jay,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to opine in writing about what we consider to be visually important as the solar farm project on Route 36 and North Road in the Town of Wheatland nears construction. Below are our thoughts and requests for consideration by the Town of Wheatland and for potential inclusion in the requirements by the Town. Once you have a chance to review the below, we would be happy to meet with you over the phone or in person to discuss this further or answer any questions you may have.

**Goal:** Use color and camouflage according to Bureau of Land Management standards to conceal the development areas in order to protect the visual integrity of the Route 36/North Road scenic landscape for the enjoyment of present and future generations, allowing area residents and travelers to view the countryside through the eyes of our immigrant ancestors who cleared the land for traditional agriculture.

### Request:

1. Because BLM studies have concluded that camouflage works best to minimize impacts to the natural landscape when the facility is ¼ mile to 1 mile within the viewshed, fencing (i.e., stand alone fiberglass screens) or fence covers should be installed that repeat the colors seen in the surrounding landscape to diminish the impact of the structure.
  - a. From key observation points on Route 36 and on North Road, decide upon best color treatments
  - b. Field test colors and patterns to find the best fit with the landscape utilizing the five elements of visual information: form, line, color, texture, scale
  - c. Use BLM standard environmental colors
2. Color treat all poles and towers to reduce contrasts with existing landscape
3. Actively maintain the facilities, as damaged surfaces may make the facility look unkempt or poorly maintained.
  - a. Painted, stained, coated, or covered surfaces must be kept in good repair, and surface treatments should be reapplied when necessary as the surface color fades, coating flakes, or otherwise deteriorates
4. Develop housekeeping procedures for the regular cleanup of debris and trash
5. Monitor and maintain trees and vegetated areas

Language Recommended by BLM (p.14-15 of doc #1), included here for your review and consideration only:

"BLM custom camouflage patterns shall be both military and science-based and developed by qualified contractors with demonstrated credentials in the application of psychophysical engineering principles in /through systematic algorithmic

calculations using object segmentation of two integrated pattern measures that address two visual processes in parallel: 1. ambient vision – detection of shape and geometric coloration (form, line, scale) labeled as the “macropattern” and interrupts the human “where is it” recognition of introduced visual contrast; 2. focal vision – recognition and analysis of detail (color and texture) labeled as the “micropattern” and interrupts the human “what is it” recognition of introduced visual contrast. The dual patterns shall be developed independently of camouflage coloration where color attributes are added based on chromaticity and contrast found within the landscape setting of the proposed site development location. The macropattern shall disrupt the symmetrical axis of the proposed facility, and the micropattern shall embody the spatial frequency spectrum mimicking the textures immediately surrounding the site location. Pattern development shall be derived from a survey that defines the bands of optical elements of the natural landscape digitized into photometric pixels using fast Fourier transform mathematical algorithms that decompose images of the site and landscape into spatial components. The final camouflage pattern(s) shall be specific to the tactical microenvironment of the proposed facility’s location, in order to effectively “hide” the facility. Samples of customized camouflage shall be field tested by placing properly sized prototypes within the landscape and evaluating them at various distances in increments of 200 feet and up to 1,500 feet and perhaps as far away as 1 mile from the target location. Pattern, pattern scale, and coloration shall be evaluated and calibrated based on distance ranges associated with casual observer key observation points (KOPs), KOP criteria, and contrast rating evaluation described within BLM Handbook H-8431-1, “Visual Resource Contrast Rating.” A refined, calibrated camouflage based on the first field testing evaluation shall be field tested a second time by applying it to a facility at the appropriate distance with the appropriate background, simulating the tactical setting that the camouflage is being produced to mitigate visual impacts. Field testing shall demonstrate effective measurable results of integration into the spatial (spatial frequency spectrum), color (spectral properties, specularity, and brightness), and contrast (luminance) characteristics of the tactical environment.”

Thank you,  
John and Marjorie Love  
3314 North Road  
Churchville, New York 14428

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**The Public Hearing will remain open until the visual updates are complete.**

**New Business:** None

**Future Business:**

- Commercial Site Plan for 3721 Scottsville Rd.

There will be no work session in May.

L. Michaels made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by K. Gascon and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Smith