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Engineering Department

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

To: Planning Board

Date: 3/17/2016

From: Engineering Department

Subject: 127 Stow Street – Solar PV Special Permit – 4.19.16

The Engineering Department has reviewed the above mentioned Special Permit and has the following comments:

1. The site is located within Zone 3 of the Acton Groundwater Protection District. Within Zone 3, the minimum distance to the maximum groundwater elevation “shall not be reduced, except when necessary to properly grade and construct streets, driveways, parking facilities and building sites”. Assuming this use is not considered a “building site”, the proposed use must maintain a 10-ft separation between ground level and the groundwater elevation, unless the existing level is less than 10-feet in which case the proposed grading may be reduced by 10% maximum.

The site appears to be a fill site and should meet this requirement however the drainage report did not estimate the maximum groundwater level nor address this requirement specifically.

2. The proposed use does not add impervious surfaces to the site and the drainage calculations show that runoff is reduced post-development by changing the surface type to a more pervious surface than pre-development. The proposed use meets the standards of section 3.11.3.6 of the Special Requirements for Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and section 4.3.6.2 of the Groundwater Protection District.
3. The plans should reference two benchmarks on the site that won't be disturbed during construction.
4. An as-built plan certified by a Massachusetts Licensed Surveyor should be required at the conclusion of construction. A Professional Engineer should also stamp the as-built plan to certify that the site has been completed in accordance with the approved site plan and that all features required on the site by the approved plans, decisions, etc... have been field inspected by the PE and conform with the approved design. Any non-conforming features shall be clearly noted.