

Approved

**CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
January 28, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.**

The Planning Commission of Castle Rock Township scheduled a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Present were Jeff Partington, Chair, Mary Ann Enggren, Vice-Chair, Jennifer Wegner, and Barbara Lang, Commission members. Committee Member Mike Betzold was not present. Also attending were Dennis Olson II, Craig Knudsen, Sandy Weber, Sam Cook, Shannon Nielsen, Erik Nielsen, Andrew Dahlen, and Cecelia Wolf.

Hearing was called to order by Chair Jeff Partington at 6:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Jeff Partington read the purpose of the Hearing: The purpose of this hearing is to review an application for an Interim Use Permit to build, own, and operate a wholesale solar electric system on property owned by Poplar Grove Farms, LLC (“Owner”) and located on 240th Street West (PID 07-01800-25-020).

Before further discussion, Chair Partington pointed out that it has been brought to the township’s attention that the proposed location is currently enrolled in the Agricultural Reserve Program, and by State Statute does not qualify for commercial/industrial use. Barbara Lang provided some further information regarding the Ag Reserve paperwork for this parcel and indicated that the program for this parcel will expire in April 2020.

Andrew Dahlen, attorney for the solar company for the project, asked if the application could just be placed on hold until that expiration time. It was explained that the township has to process the application within the time frame defined by the State, so the decision for this application has to be made at the February 11, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting in order to comply that the state requirements.

There was discussion about the possibility of relocating where a similar solar farm could be developed and a new application would have to be submitted for review and consideration.

Barbara Lang / Jeff Partington made a motion to recommend that the application be denied based on State Statute 473H. 4 ayes. Motion carried.

Jennifer Wegner / Jeff Partington made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. 4 ayes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lang, Town Clerk
Castle Rock Township

Attest: Jeff Partington, Chair, Castle Rock Planning Commission