

ARTICLE __: Large-Scale Solar Battery Storage Facilities.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new Section 4.8.3.H: Temporary Moratorium on the Siting of Large-Scale Solar Battery Storage Facilities, as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

4.8.3.H.1. PURPOSE

The Town of Ware recently has been the target of interest for the construction of large-scale solar battery storage facilities. The regulation of large-scale solar battery storage facilities raises complex legal, planning, and public safety issues, and the Town needs time to study and consider their regulation and address these issues.

The Town intends to adopt a temporary zoning moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for large-scale solar energy facilities so as to allow the Town to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town, and to enact bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives. During the moratorium, the Town will undertake a planning process to evaluate the impacts of large-scale solar battery storage facilities on the health, safety and welfare of Town residents and to consider appropriate amendments to its Zoning Bylaw to address said impacts, in accordance with state and federal law.

4.8.3.H.2. DEFINITION

A “large-scale solar battery storage facility” shall mean a facility, including all structures and components used in connection therewith, used to store energy produced by a solar system or systems having a total rated nameplate capacity of greater than 100kW, whether such facility may be accessory to other use, including a solar system, or is a separate land use

4.8.3.H.3. TEMPORARY MORATORIUM

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaws to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for large-scale solar battery storage facilities in Town. The moratorium shall be in effect through June 30, 2023, or the date on which the Town adopts amendments to the Zoning Bylaw regulating large-scale solar battery storage facilities, whichever occurs earlier. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to study, review, analyze and address what revisions to the Zoning Bylaw relative to large-scale solar battery storage facilities are needed or desirable to allow for and regulate such use consistent with protecting the Town's natural resources and furthering its planning goals.

Requires a 2/3 vote to approve.

Planning Board

***Summary.** This article establishes a moratorium on large-scale solar battery storage facilities while the Town considers appropriate zoning measures.*