

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 8:02 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. Present were: First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner and Board members – Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly and Michael Paine. Absent was Elaine Lang. Also in attendance: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services and Melissa Appleby, Deputy Director of Administrative Services.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Joe Treacy, 40 Berkshire Way. Mr. Treacy thanked the Town’s leadership and staff for their representation of the Town and its residents before the Connecticut Siting Council on Deepwater Wind’s Petition for a solar project in the north end of town. While he noted concerns about some of the testimony offered by Town witnesses, he praised the Town and its witnesses for thorough presentations on environmental and safety issues, including water quality concerns.

Alan Kosloff, Esq., Attorney for the abutters in the Deepwater Wind Siting Council proceeding, thanked the Town for its representation of the Town and its residents in the proceeding and expressed concerns about how the proceeding had been conducted.

Jennifer Siskind, 101 Fairview Terrace, South Glastonbury, stated her belief that the need for 100% renewable energy ultimately outweighs concerns about contamination of the soil on the Deepwater Wind site. She also raised concerns about the transportation of fracking waste into the State of Connecticut and encouraged the Town to take local legislative action to protect residents from the potential dangers of fracking waste.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, encouraged the Town to move forward with designation of certain land as an “Old Growth Forest” and to be one of the first Connecticut towns to do so. She pointed out that the Pinchot Sycamore was likely to be a “National Champion” based on its size and age. Ms. Heavner stated that she believed the issue had already been raised before the Conservation Commission and added that it could be presented to the Open Space Committee as well.

**SELECTMEN ACTION**

**a) Appointment of Additional Members to the Town Manager Executive Search Committee**

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Eric Wellman and Chris Peterson as additional members to the Executive Search Committee. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Review of Status of Deepwater Wind Solar Petition before the Connecticut Siting Council and Possible Action**

First Selectwoman Heavner updated the board on the Deepwater Wind Petition proceedings before the Connecticut Siting Council, reviewing information contained in a Memorandum to the Board of Selectmen dated November 8, 2017 which is attached hereto. Ms. Heavner described a conversation she had with Deepwater Wind CEO Jeff Grybowski at the close of the hearing concerning the potential gifting of the solar panel site to the Town at the end of the project assuming that the project is approved. She added that there was a possibility she would meet with Mr. Grybowski in Simsbury noting that while there would likely be a discussion of the outstanding issues with the solar proposal, there would be no negotiation at this time. She also pointed out that the final decision on the proposal and its details remains within the sole authority of the Siting Council. She underscored the importance of transparency on the matter. None of the Board members expressed any objection to such a meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 a.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Cooke  
Director of Administrative Services



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner  
DATE: November 8, 2017  
RE: Deepwater Wind Siting Council Update

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On November 2, 2017, the Siting Council concluded the public hearing on Petition 1313 - DWW Solar II, LLC.<sup>1</sup> Counsel for the Town of Simsbury is currently preparing final briefs for the Connecticut Siting Council which are due on December 2, 2107.

As previously discussed by this Board, the Town raised three primary concerns with the Deepwater Wind project during the course of the hearing process. First, the safety of our residents is a top priority, which means making sure the Council has the evidence it needs to assess the environmental impact of this project. At this point, the Town takes the position that the environmental review is insufficient. Second, if the Siting Council approves the project, the Town wants to ensure the project fits with Simsbury's culture, history and aesthetics and that it takes seriously the concerns of abutters and affected neighborhoods. In this context, the Town has requested that the parcel on the southern side of Hoskins be eliminated, that all five barns be preserved and that landscaping be improved. Third, the Town has taken the position that the long-term impact of this project should be properly vetted and that the decommissioning plan be strengthened.

During the Siting Council proceedings, Deepwater Wind agreed to some important concessions:

- Pre- and post- construction testing of abutters' wells;
- Raising the security fence to allow the passage of small mammals;
- Committing to donate the entirety of project land to either the town or the state at the conclusion of the project, possibly with an environmental/agricultural easement; and
- Evaluating whether more efficient panels could be used to reduce the footprint of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Deepwater Wind's petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 26.4 megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on approximately 289 acres comprised of 5 separate and abutting privately-owned parcels located generally west of Hopmeadow Street (US 202/CT 10), north and south of Hoskins Road, north and east of County Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's North Simsbury Substation west of Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury, CT.

During the hearing, the Siting Council asked me, in my capacity as First Selectwoman, whether the Town would prefer the land to go to the Department of Agriculture or to the Town of Simsbury and in what capacity. I responded that the Town prefers the land to go the Town unencumbered so that the needs of the Town can be evaluated and met 25 years from now without restrictions.