

From: Mayor
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2017 4:15 PM
To: jessica.kourakos@gmail.com
Cc: Lee Fischman; farleysb@gmail.com; Steve Pappalardo; Robert Cole; Bill Stern (stern.bill@yahoo.com); Debby Pekarek Pekarek (dpekarek@verizon.net); Marc Samwick (marc.samwick@verizon.net); Carl Finger; Matt Callaghan; Jane Veron
Subject: Re: Solar Policy & Permitting Guidance

Dear Ms. Kourakos -- Thanks for your email.

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Jessica Kourakos <jessica.kourakos@gmail.com>
To: Deborah Pekarek <dpekarek@verizon.net>
Cc: Lee Fischman <lee.fischman@gmail.com>; Steve Pappalardo <spappalardo@scarsdale.com>; Jon Mark <jmark58@aol.com>; Bill Stern <stern.bill@yahoo.com>; Carl Finger <carlfingerscarsdaletrustee@gmail.com>; F Baker <farleysb@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, Jan 9, 2017 01:23 PM
Subject: Re: Solar Policy & Permitting Guidance

For those of you that haven't seen this, I am forwarding a copy of the letter I sent to Carl Finger and my fellow BAR members on 12/8/2016 that might provide some perspective on my opinions going into today's meeting...

In the event that I can not attend, I would like to submit the following comments for consideration to the Trustees.

First, I would like to say, as Chair of the Scarsdale BAR, that we aim to be a very collaborative board and are very open to green initiatives being embraced in Scarsdale. On a personal level, in addition to regular recycling efforts, my family uses geothermal to cool and heat our home, we re-use rainwater as a primary source for our sprinkler system, and have installed water filter systems throughout our home to remove the need for plastic water bottles. So, while solar is a great green initiative, I would just like to highlight that I believe it is one of many great green initiatives that Scarsdale should be embracing in a larger way.

On the topic of solar, while we are all familiar with solar panel technology as it stands today, we should also be aware as a community that there are some spectacular innovations in solar that are coming our way very soon. For example, Elon Musk's company has just announced they will release solar roof tiles next year that come in a variety of architectural styles. This new approach to solar, in my opinion, would relieve many people's concerns about the aesthetic issues that may arise from today's solar installations (which, by the way, might look dated in a couple of years) and might prove a win/win all around for homeowners as well as the community at large.

As far as the BAR's involvement in these installations goes, let me make a few points. The BAR not only serves as an oversight committee to help improve the aesthetics of the residential building that goes on in our community, but our meetings also serve as an important forum for neighbors to voice their opinion on projects going on on their street that can have a direct impact on not only the look and feel of their street, but also, derivatively, their perceived property

values. Removing BAR oversight also removes that all-important forum for neighbors and I would highly discourage that our Trustees move in that direction.

Lastly, while solar panel technology is of interest to many people in Scarsdale, my experience on the BAR over the last couple of years also informs me that homeowners are very passionate about preserving the overall aesthetic of their immediate neighborhood. And while I appreciate the solar survey results as they are laid out on the surface, let me just point out that total respondents only represented 259 people out of a total adult population of 11,858 which equates to only 2.2% of our adult population. Of that 259, only 158 people or 1.4% of our total adult community wished to have no BAR oversight over the aesthetics of the installation. In my mind, those results do not support removing any opportunity for the BAR or surrounding neighbors from voicing their opinions.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Regards,
Jessica Kourakos
Chair, Scarsdale BAR