

## SMART Public Comment

Philip Hubbard <philipmhubbard@hotmail.com>

Sun 5/31/2020 8:33 PM

To: SMART, DOER (ENE) <doer.smart@mass.gov>

Cc: anne.gobi@masenate.gov <anne.gobi@masenate.gov>; donald.berthiaume@mahouse.gov <donald.berthiaume@mahouse.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing in several capacities from my home in Barre. For 10 years I was a member of the Barre Planning Board including several as Chairman. In 2017 I served for several months as Interim Town Administrator. I have been on the Barre Open Space Committee and helped develop and implement parts of the Barre Open Space and Recreation Plan. I represented Barre in development of the MA Historical Commission Heritage Landscape Inventory Program for my community and was a local representative for development of the RT. 122/Lost Villages Scenic Byway Corridor Management and Implementation Plan prepared by CMRPC. I have been a subregional delegate to the Central MA Regional Planning Commission and a Keystone Cooperator with the UMass Extension Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Program, promoting forest, wildlife and land conservation. I am also a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and a Board Member of the East Quabbin Land Trust.

During my tenure, the Barre Planning Board permitted over 10 large scale ground mounted commercial solar developments. Although I support green energy and am a member of the Green Energy Consumers Alliance, I lament the loss of farm land and open space to produce these developments. Barre loses some of its rural character in the process. A project on Spring Hill Road cleared multiple acres of woodlands with its associated wildlife to create a sizable commercial scale solar installation. In South Barre, a project removed land that was formerly used for walking and recreation by members of the adjacent residential neighborhood. Northwest of Barre center, a large development has impacted the views of neighboring abutters on land historically used for farming. South of Barre center, another development has removed a beautiful field and replaced it with a solar installation, which although buffered visually through tree plantings, has lost its charm.

I highly encourage DOER to revise the SMART program to promote solar developments on rooftops, parking canopies, highway cloverleaves, power line corridors and other man-made areas rather than on forests, farmland and open space.

-Philip M. Hubbard  
27 James Street  
Barre, MA 01005