

TOWN OF AMSTERDAM TOWN BOARD

A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) MONTHS A MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS, SITE PLANS, OR OTHER LAND USE APPROVALS FOR SOLAR STORAGE BATTERIES AND UTILITY-SCALE ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

Whereas, energy storage system development in New York State has increased in recent years, due to State policy supporting such development as well as the need to accommodate renewable energy generation; and

Whereas, on September 20, 2023, the Town Board of the Town of Amsterdam adopted a six (6) month moratorium on applications for permits, site plans, or other land use approvals for solar storage batteries and utility-scale energy storage systems in order to study these developments and potential avenues for local regulation thereof; and

Whereas, the Town engaged Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., to provide professional planning, engineering, and consulting services in order to assist the Town Board in the evaluation of the land use aspects of energy storage systems and to draft proposed regulations relating thereto; and

Whereas, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. has prepared a draft local law containing recommended zoning text amendments to address small-scale and utility-scale battery energy storage system developments in the Town, and has delivered a copy of the proposed draft the Town Board; and

Whereas, the process to adopt a local law is set forth in NYS law and the Town's zoning code and requires multiple actions of this Board; and

Whereas, in parallel with the Town Board's study of the matter, New York State convened a task force to study fire safety and other environmental health and safety aspects of energy storage system development, which task force issued preliminary findings on [INSERT DATE] and from which additional findings and recommendations that are directly pertinent to the Town Board's study are expected; and

Whereas, local law [INSERT] establishing said moratorium provided that the Town Board may extend its effective period by resolution of the Board for two (2) periods of three (3) months each; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board finds that, now in receipt of draft zoning amendments, additional time is required to conduct the required referrals, environmental review, and obtain public input, which additional time should also facilitate addressing any NYS Task Force recommendations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Amsterdam hereby extends for a period of three (3) months a moratorium on applications for permits, site plans, or other land use approvals for solar storage batteries and utility-scale energy storage systems.

Dated: February 21, 2024

Sponsored by:

Seconded by:

ADOPTED- -AYES- -NOES