

Norwich PC Solar Siting Subcommittee

October 29, 2025 - Minutes

DRAFT

Subcommittee members present: Mary Gorman, Ernie Ciccotelli, Jaan Laaspere
Steven True, Norwich PD/ZA

Public attending: Linda Gray, Robert Gere

Meeting started at 6:32

1. Approved Agenda - unanimous

2. Public comment

Mary Gorman notified the group that clear cutting for the Upper Loveland PV project had begun and urge members to visit the site.

3. Enhanced Energy Plan project 10/27/25 document

Laaspere gave an overview of the document, which represent draft minutes for the discussion on the EEP in the 10/14/25 Planning Commission meeting outlining the roles and responsibilities of different groups, including the proposal to create a new temporary group.

This subcommittee is chartered to focus on Standard 9 – Development and Siting of Renewable Energy Resources and mapping standards 10 – 13.

We discussed the definition of renewables for the purposes of siting and whether this group should limit itself to PV sites or expand the scope to include all renewable generation. This would include wind and hydro, each of which could have different siting criteria from solar. The group agreed to include all renewable generation in our charter and will ask the Planning Commission to approve this change.

It was thought the proposed schedule may be too aggressive, given the upcoming holiday season.

4. Constraints Mapping initial review

We reviewed maps (in packet) of solar raw potential and starting drafts for possible constraints on this potential, including known constraints of wetlands, floodways and significant natural communities.

The mapping tools will be extremely useful for visualizing the results of various policy decisions. True will create methods of combining and color-coding layers to optimize this tool.

In subsequent meetings we will continue with the mapping exercise, closing in from both sides to identify preferred and prime areas along with unsuitable areas and those with known constraints. We can start by setting strong constraints and evaluate the

results relative to our renewable generation targets. True will get these targets from TRORC before the next meeting.

It is in the middle uncertain area of “possible constraints” where policies and process will be most necessary. To navigate this area while maintaining maximum influence given to the town’s wishes in state processes we must create “clear, written community standards.” It was suggested that these should start with high level principles and values stating the town’s priorities on topics like wildlife, steep slopes, scenic resources, etc. which would then be cascaded down to more detailed siting guidelines.

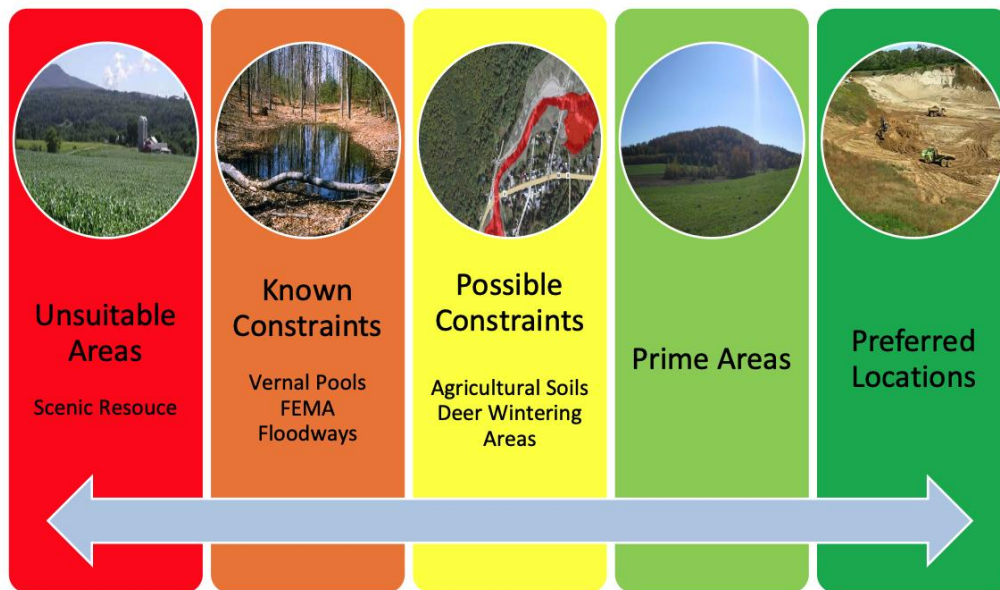


Figure 4: the Spectrum between Unsuitable Areas and Preferred Locations

True will continue mapping work for review at the next meeting, including adding a layer for electrical utility infrastructure.

5. Approved minutes of September 16, 2025 - Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:04

Minutes submitted by Jaan Laaspere