

STAFF REPORT - TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

January 28, 2022



APPLICATION NAME & NUMBER
120 Lafayette Ave [2021-022] – Site Development
Plan for Rooftop Solar

SBL
122.12-1-8

MEETING DATE
February 14, 2022

PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION
120 Lafayette Avenue, NWP

BRIEF SUMMARY OF REQUEST

249 panel 107kW rooftop mounted solar system.



PENDING ACTION: Plan Review Town Board Referral Preliminary Discussion

EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING LAND USE	SURROUNDING ZONING & LAND USE	SITE IMPROVEMENTS	SIZE OF PROPERTY
IND-A	Unknown	Industrial	Rooftop Mounted Solar	0.47 acres

PROPERTY HISTORY	COMPATIBILITY with the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Sherman Pressure Casting Office and Warehouse	<p>The Comprehensive Plan states the following with respect to the IND-A Zoning District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider amendments to the IND-A district to incorporate standards for landscaping and sidewalks, to improve conditions along Virginia Road and Lafayette Avenue. <p>The proposed action is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.</p>

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the Planning Board approve the requested site plan.
2. The project is compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

<p><u>Procedural Comments</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursuant to Section 12-18(1) of the Town Code, all site development plans submitted to the Planning Board are required to be referred to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) for review and comment. 2. The application for special permit approval requires referral to the Westchester County Planning Board pursuant to § 239-m of New York State General Municipal Law (GML). This referral is required because the site is within 500 feet of the Bronx River Parkway. 3. The Proposed Action would be classified as an Unlisted Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). 4. A Public Hearing for the proposed site plan will need to be scheduled. 5. The site plan should be forwarded to the Chief of Police, Fire Inspector and the North White Plains Fire Chief so that they may make any pertinent recommendations to the Planning Board including, but not limited to, the designation of no-parking zones, emergency vehicle access or any other issued deemed important to providing emergency services. 	<p><u>Staff Notes</u></p> <p>The ARB should opine whether this application is required to be reviewed by the ARB. The ARB, for the similar project at 1 Bedford Banksville Road determined that ARB review was not required.</p> <p>The project was referred to Westchester County on May 25, 2021.</p> <p>The project was referred on May 25, 2021.</p>
<p><u>General Comments</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The submitted site plan depicts the property being used as an office and warehouse. It is noted that the Planning Department does not have any site plan approval for this site on record. Documentation in the Building Department indicates that the site was formerly Sherman Pressure Casting. Prior to the Planning Board being able to approve the requested solar project, the Planning Board will also need to adopt and approve a site plan for the property. 2. Based upon the existing uses in the building, a total of 17 off-street parking spaces are required. It is noted that the 10 parking spaces are in front of the building are not located entirely on the subject property. The Applicant has stated that a 10 space off-street parking variance will be sought from the ZBA. In addition, the Applicant will need to obtain a license agreement from the North Castle Town Board to continue to utilize the parking spaces and a variance to back cars into the road from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The site plan states that some of the required off-street parking is provided inside the building. The floor plans should be revised to depict the spaces and depict access to the spaces from outside the building. 3. The Applicant should indicate whether there are any building or ground mounted equipment at the point of interconnection. If so, those elements should be depicted on the site plan. 4. The Applicant shall provide a plan for the operation and maintenance of the solar installation to the satisfaction of the Building Department. The plan shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, adequate security as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation. 5. The Applicant will need to submit a project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the North White Plains Fire Chief. In addition, upon request, the Applicant shall cooperate with emergency service providers in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar installation shall be clearly marked in the plan and in the field. In addition, the Applicant shall identify a responsible person for public inquiry throughout the life of the installation. 	<p>The Building Department will need to confirm that the current uses on the site are permitted and that there are no current issues regarding the existing use of the property.</p> <p>The Building Department will need to determine whether the proposed indoor parking is permitted by the NYS Building Code.</p>

6. The Applicant shall submit a suitable legal agreement, in form satisfactory to the Town Attorney, assuring the Town that the applicant will deposit cash or file a surety bond or other security acceptable to the Town Board (such as a Letter of Credit) for the removal and restoration of the site should the solar collector cease to perform its originally intended function for more than 12 consecutive months. The amount of said bond or other security shall be determined by the Town Board.

In the event that the issuer of the bond or other security furnished to the Town hereunder becomes insolvent or, for any reason, disaffirms the validity of such security, the applicant shall notify the Town Board immediately and replace the invalid security with a new bond or other security acceptable to the Town Board within thirty (30) days thereafter. The existence of a valid bond, letter of credit or other security shall be a condition precedent to the validity of any permits issued or to be issued in connection with this approval.