

TOWN OF TRENTON

Official Minutes

A Public Hearing of the Town of Trenton Plan Commission was held Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. at the Town of Trenton Town Hall, 1071 State Highway 33 East, West Bend, WI 53095.

Chairman Mike Lipscomb called the Public Hearing to order at 6:47 p.m.

Plan Commission Members Present: Pat Groth, Doug Hein, Ray Werhand, Scott Schweizer, Dennis Kay.
Not present: Lee Kidney

Others Present: Chairman Mike Lipscomb, Supervisor Barb Davies, Supervisor Tony Thoma. Town Administrator/Zoning Administrator/Clerk Cindy Komro, Deputy Clerk Cass Walker.

Members of the public: 31

Lipscomb read the Notice of Public Hearing, held to accept public comments on an application submitted by Jacob Van Domelen of SV CSG Linde Solar, LLC, on behalf of Dennis Schloemer, 5510 River Road.

Summary: Owner Dennis Schloemer has petitioned the Town for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a 5 MW solar facility on approximately 25.18 acres of parcel T11_0753.

Public Comments:

Brandon Schneiberg, 1828 Cloverview Street: Schneiberg stated that he and his wife recently purchased their home, which borders the proposed solar project. They oppose the application citing its potential impacts on their family's quality of life. He expressed concerns about the proposed location of inverter transformers and electrical infrastructure near his property, mentioning potential noise, fire risk, and safety issues. He stated that existing vegetation would not adequately screen the project from neighboring homes, Prairie Meadow Park, or surrounding properties. He also shared concerns about the lack of an emergency response or firefighting plan, the potential use of glyphosate-based herbicides, possible health impacts, and possible reduced property values. He does not believe the proposed project would provide a safe environment for raising a child. He added that he and his wife would not have purchased their home had they known about the proposal and expressed concern that approval of the project may ultimately lead them to relocate.

David Lake, 5546 Whispering Pines Drive: Lake stated that his neighbor, Gary Furger of 5557 Whispering Pines Drive, who was unable to attend, asked him to share his opposition to the proposed solar farms in the Town of Trenton. Gary's statement argued that solar energy is less land-efficient than natural gas and nuclear power. He cited relatively low solar efficiency and urged commissioners to view existing large-scale solar developments to understand their size. Speaking for himself, David Lake expressed that he is not opposed to solar energy in general but has concerns about large-scale solar farms near residential properties. He questioned committing land to such extended lease periods given future uncertainties. He also asked how utility aid payments would be used, and expressed concern about setting a precedent for similar developments. He said additional studies and research are needed, and based on his current concerns, he opposes the proposal.

Joseph Geracie, 1827 Cloverview Street: Geracie shared that he lives directly across from the proposed solar and battery storage project. He spoke as a father, homeowner, and neighbor who would be directly affected. He supports clean energy and responsible development, but he believes the project should better protect the health, safety, welfare, and property rights of nearby residents. He questioned how close the battery storage equipment would be to occupied homes and asked whether alternative locations on the property had been considered to provide greater setbacks and a larger safety buffer. He also reiterated that the existing vegetation would not provide adequate year-round screening, particularly if trees are removed during construction or die over the life of the project. He urged the Town to require a screening

and maintenance plan with replacement vegetation and evergreen screening where needed. Finally, he asked whether local fire and emergency agencies had reviewed the battery storage system, if a site-specific emergency response plan had been prepared, and how potential battery fires or hazardous gas releases would be managed to protect nearby residents.

Craig Martin, 1822 Cloverview Street: Martin lives directly south of the neighboring farmhouse. He shared his concerns about the project's potential impacts on drainage and road conditions. He stated that the existing driveway may not be able to withstand the heavy construction traffic from trucks and that drainage issues affecting nearby properties have not been adequately addressed. He also raised issues relating to fire safety, citing recent solar facility fires as examples of potential risks. He questioned whether the Town's emergency response capabilities would be sufficient, noting that the Newburg Fire Department's volunteer response time to the area could be lengthy. Delays in reporting and dispatching a fire could further increase response times for residents.

Rebecca Richardson, 1819 Cloverview Street: Richardson lives in the Prairie Meadow subdivision across from the park and opposes the proposed solar project. She spoke from the perspective of a mother of four and a registered nurse. She stated she values the community, park, and surrounding wildlife. She is concerned about the potential safety risks the project could pose to children who frequently play in the nearby woods, including her own. She also expressed concern about the impacts of construction that would produce increased traffic, dust, heavy equipment, and noise from installing more than 10,000 solar panels. As a third-shift nurse who sleeps during the day, she said the construction noise would significantly disrupt her sleep and affect her ability to care for her family.

Elizabeth Sterman, 1834 Cloverview Street: Sterman stated that her property directly borders the proposed farm field. She initially bought her home for its scenic view and proximity to the park. She expressed strong concern about fire risk, particularly due to the proposed location of transformers and an access road near her home, which she stated could put her property at increased risk. She also raised worries about potential health impacts in the event of a fire and said the project would likely reduce her property value and make it difficult to sell.

Christina Alridge, 1722 Cloverview Street: Alridge and her husband live directly next to the proposed construction access road. She clarified that she is not opposed to solar energy in general, but objects to how the project is being implemented. She expressed concern that construction traffic so close to their small lot would significantly affect their quality of life, disrupt her husband's ability to work from home, and make it difficult to enjoy their yard. She also raised concerns relating to potential environmental impacts on birds and wildlife from reflective solar panels and transmission infrastructure. She requested changes such as relocating the access road farther from homes, adding noise controls and screening, and addressing wildlife impacts with deterrents.

Sharon Martin, 1822 Cloverview Street: Martin shared that she has lived in her home for over 22 years and recently learned about the proposed solar farm. She explained that her property borders a residential driveway not designed for heavy construction traffic and expressed concern about increased truck use, existing drainage issues, and the difficulty large vehicles already have navigating the road. She raised further concerns about the project's proximity to the nearby homes and a public park, as well as potential fire risks and a lack of clear studies on wildlife impacts. She urged the board to consider requiring changes to the proposal such as increased setbacks, berms, and moving the development farther from residential areas and Prairie Meadow Park.

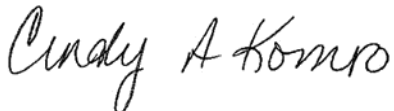
Diane Mayer, 7030 Poplar Road: Mayer expressed concern about solar farms replacing farmland. She argued that companies target agricultural land through long-term leases, which she believes harms the future of farming and the natural rural landscape. She acknowledges that landowners are tempted by financial offers; she expresses interest in developers prioritizing alternatives such as installing solar on rooftops, over highways, or along bike paths instead of using rich farmland. She emphasized frustration at

the loss of farmland in Trenton over time. Diane urged for more innovative planning that preserves agricultural land and keeps development away from residential and farming areas.

Matt Sternig, 1700 Sagewood Circle: Sternig is a resident of Prairie Meadow, an alderman for District 4, and a member of the West Bend City Plan Commission. Matt explained the role of plan commissioners in evaluating whether development complies with codes, state statutes, and regulations rather than deciding based purely on personal opinion. He noted that many speakers are not Town of Trenton residents and do not directly represent the commission's constituents. However, he encouraged the commissioners to listen carefully to all public input. Urging them to thoughtfully consider community concerns and, if the project moves forward, to consider possible adjustments that could address those concerns.

Lipscomb adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy A Komro". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cindy Komro, Town Clerk

Affidavit of Posting: These minutes were approved at the July 13, 2026 Plan Commission meeting and posted on the Town website on July 14, 2026.