



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

January 15, 2020

To: Rudy Botros, Staff Planner

From: Sarah Porter, Conservation Agent

Re: Planning Board meeting of 01/29/2020

Comments are provided below on the Case which is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act.

Case #19-37 John Vertente Boulevard. – Request by applicant for Site Plan review for new construction of a large scale ground mounted photovoltaic solar array located on John Vertente Boulevard (Map: 135 Lot: 1, 3, 15 & 47) on a 45.88+ Acre site of which 21.53+ Acres are located in the city of New Bedford in an Industrial C zoned district. Owner/Applicant: NBD Solar, LLC (80 Front Street, Marion, MA 02378).

The Conservation Commission has issued an Order of Conditions for the solar project on John Vertente Boulevard. The plans approved by the Commission differ from the plans submitted to the Planning Board. We have provided the Planning Dept. with a copy of the Conservation Commission's approved plans.

The cutting of vegetation in the 25' Setback (No Disturb Zone) was subject to a lengthy review by the Conservation Commission as it is a written policy to try and not disturb this 25' Setback adjacent to the wetlands. Following review, it was determined that the northern 25' Setback did not need to have the vegetation cut. However, the south and east Setbacks are subject to vegetation cutting but the applicant shall replant these areas with low growing native shrubs and trees which have a high wildlife habitat value. The Conservation Commission felt that the plantings would mitigate for the impact from tree cutting.

cc: Conservation Commissioners, Neil Mello, Christina Connelly, Michele Paul, Jane Medeiros-Friedman, Elizabeth Lydon, Jamie Ponte, Manuel Silva, Stephanie Crampton, Danny Romanowicz, Tabitha Harkin, Kirsten Bryan