

PETITION ARTICLE

We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Longmeadow, hereby petition the Select Board pursuant to MGL Ch. 39, S. 10 to insert the following article into the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

To see if the Town will vote to:

Allow the installation of ground-mounted thermal and/or photovoltaic solar panels within the front and/or side lot lines of a residential property with the following regulations:

1. Solar panels and supporting structures shall be located in zones up to **15'** (fifteen feet) wide that are offset a minimum of **5'** from the building foundation; the maximum parallel distance from the foundation to the edge of a solar panel zone shall be **20'**. There shall be an **8'** separation in any solar panel zone at least every **23'** to allow access. The solar panels and related equipment shall not unreasonably interfere with the egress from windows; solar panels shall not obstruct doorway egress. Such solar panel structures shall not be closer than within **15'** of the front or side property lines, public road curbs, tree belts, public sidewalks, easements, or right of way, and not within **30'** of the nearest road curb at the junction of a traffic intersection [see Diagram 1, Solar Panel Zone Diagram];
2. The solar panels in each zone shall form a single row and be parallel to the correlating building foundation; the single row may include multiple solar panels in height and width/length. The highest position of the array of solar panels and supporting structure(s) shall not be more than **8'-6"** (eight feet plus six inches) above grade; the lowest upward edge of the solar panel(s) shall be a minimum of **1'-2"** above grade to allow snow and water runoff. The minimum pitch of the solar panels shall be **20°** (20 degrees) above the horizontal; the maximum pitch shall be **70°** above the horizontal; panels shall pitch downward and away from the foundation [see Diagram 2, Cross-Sectional View];
3. The total power rating of the ground-mounted photovoltaic panels shall not exceed **9.0** kilowatts per property;
4. Each solar panel array shall be skirted on all perimeter sides that are in view from a public way or abutting neighbor with natural wood lattice, or tan, green, or gray vinyl lattice, and evergreen shrubbery to soften the aesthetic appearance. The evergreen shrubbery species selected shall be able to achieve the full height of the solar array and be planted no less than **3'-0"** on center. Evergreen species to include, but not be limited to Arborvitae, Yew, Boxwood, or Spruce (see plan view, front view, and end view diagrams);

5. All solar panel systems to be subject to local permitting and inspection by the local building commissioner. The solar panel system equipment shall comply with applicable Commonwealth building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and other relevant code standards as well as standards of good engineering practice. A solar panel system will not be permitted if it can be demonstrated by the local building commissioner, fire department, or the police department that the subject solar panels or any of the related equipment would create a condition that could jeopardize the public health, safety, or welfare,

Or take any other action relative thereto.

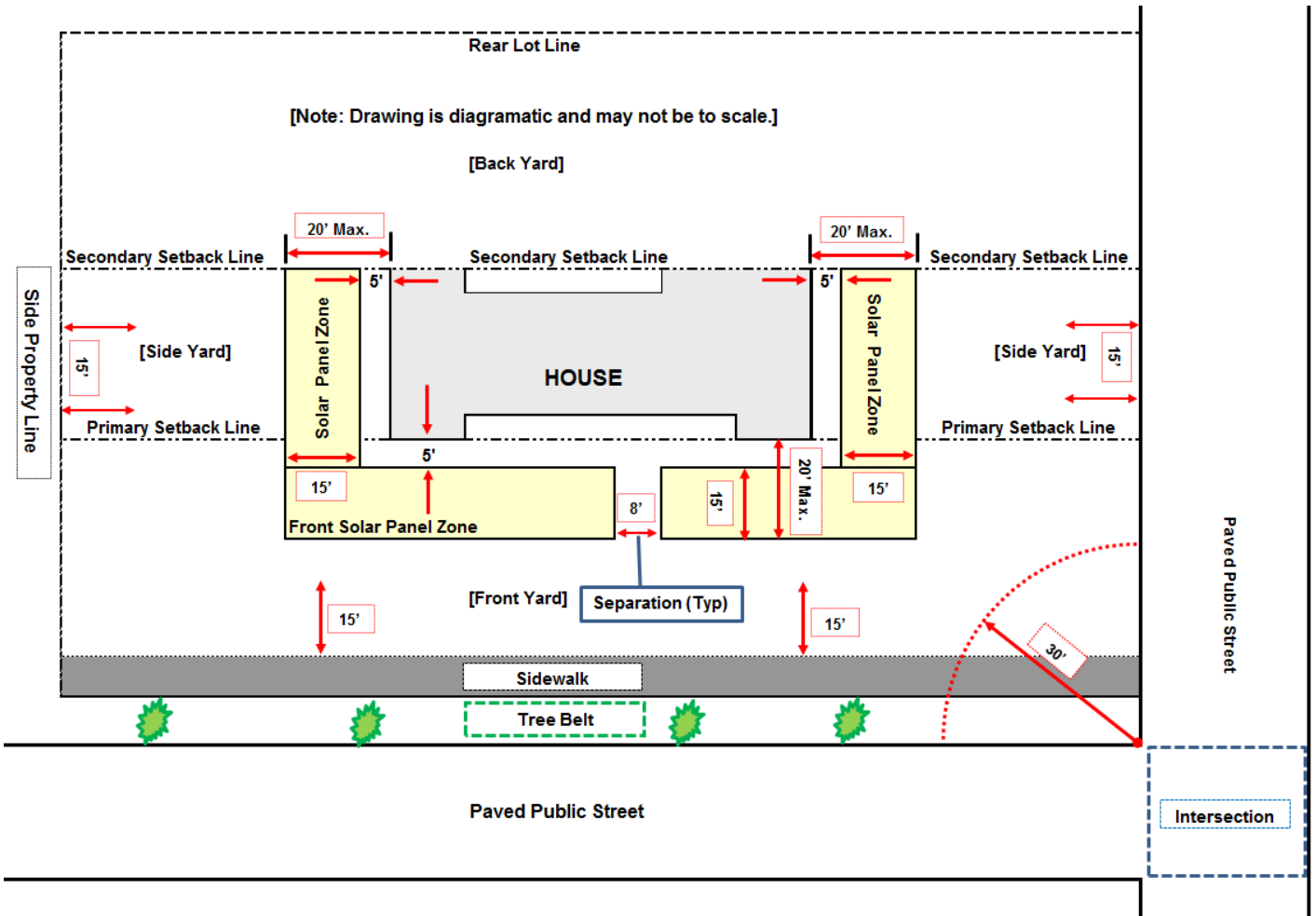


Diagram 1
Solar Panel Zone Diagram

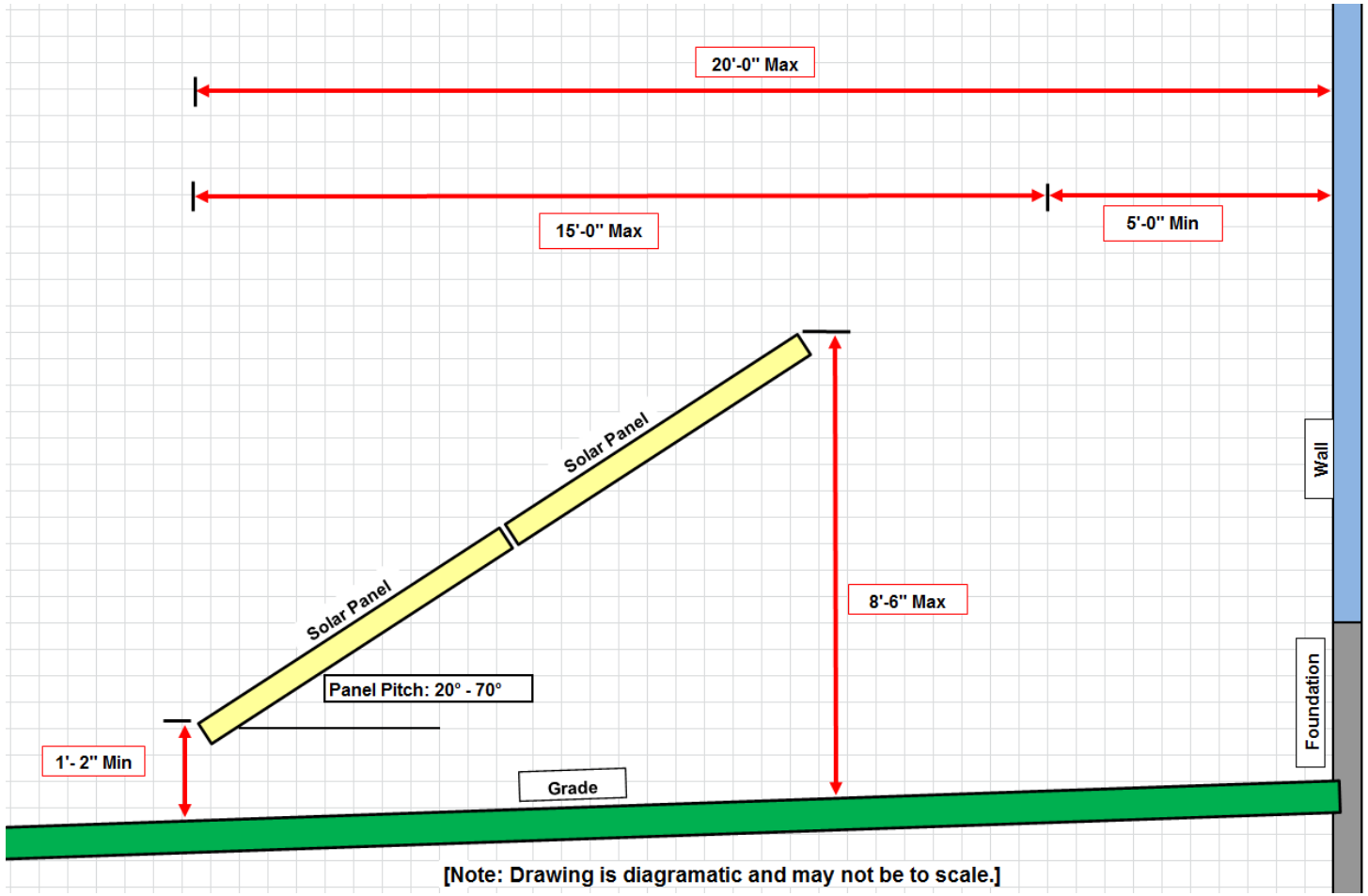
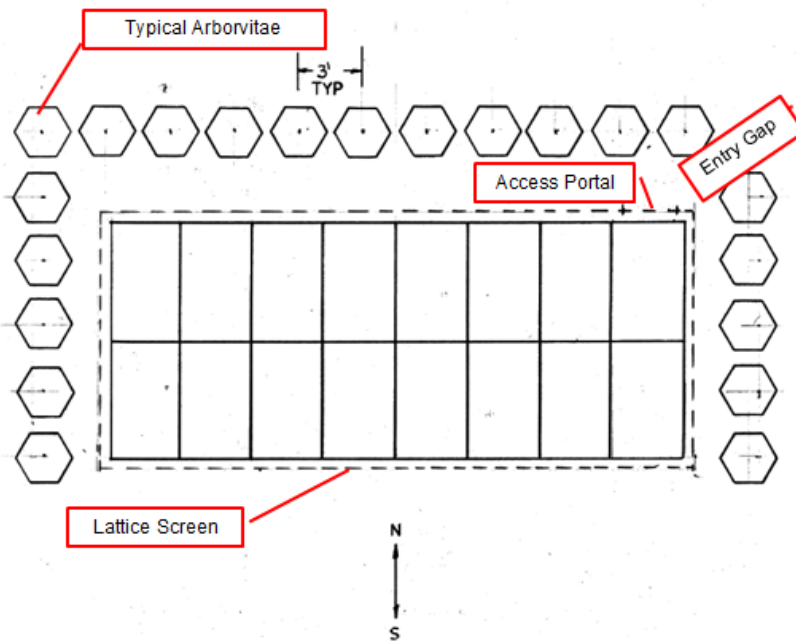
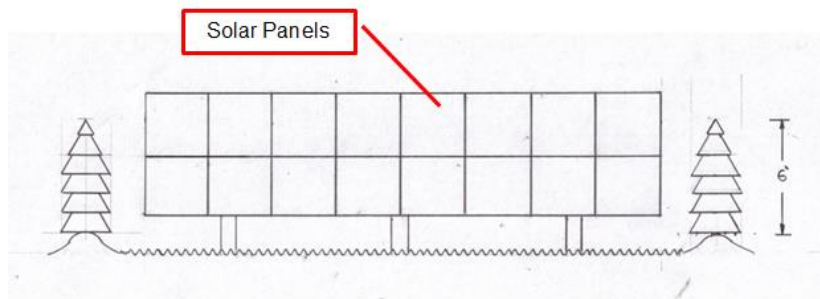


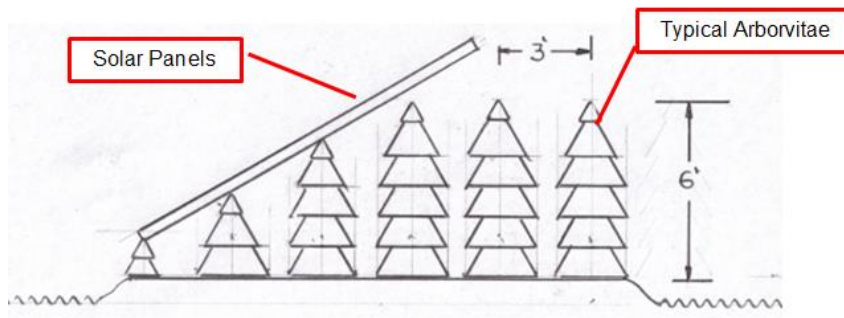
Diagram 2
Cross-Sectional View



**Shrubbery and Lattice Fence Details
[Plan View]**



**Front View (Facing North)
[Lattice screen not shown]**



**End View (Facing West)
[Lattice screen not shown]**

It is proposed to allow solar panels to be installed on side yard and front yards and soften the aesthetics by shrouding the solar panels with lattice and shrubbery.

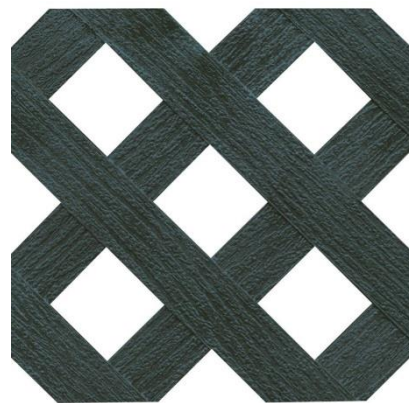


Solar panels to be shrouded with vinyl or wood lattice fence material to conceal support structure and underside of solar panels as typical photograph demonstrates above.

Evergreen shrubbery to be placed in front of lattice @ three foot on-center spacing.



Vinyl Diamond Lattice



Close-up of Lattice

-[Signature page on next page]-

[Signature Page for Proposed Ground-Mount Solar Panel Warrant Article]

Printed Name

Street Address

Signature

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