

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

ZBA 20-00007 STEIN ASSISTED LIVING 11/16/2020

The environmental Commission applauds the desire of Stein Assisted Living to construct a large Solar Cell array. However, the removal of so many trees in order to do this seems to conflict with the purpose of the Solar Array. We suggest that Stein consider relocating the Solar Array to an area with minimal collateral environmental damage. The cleared area nearby, or a roof installation or parking lot canopy would accomplish the same purpose without removing trees.

The location chosen results in clear cutting of trees which goes directly against the Township Council's 2016 Proclamation to adopt a Township tree canopy goal of 42%. At that time our canopy was 39%. Trees help prevent flooding, soil erosion, and especially older trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and store carbon in their wood which helps slow the rate of global warming. The Township adopted a resolution in June of 2017 to Support Action on Climate Control as directed by the Paris Climate Agreement. Unnecessary removal of acres of trees goes directly against the documented goals of the Township Council.