

VCE's Mission

VCE advocates for the wellbeing of all Vermonters, striving for the protection of the natural world: land, air, water, wildlife, people, and especially the web of life.

We unite to pursue the common goals of encouraging economic development with minimal environmental impacts and preserving Vermont's natural beauty.

We inspire and engage citizens in longterm planning for sustainable economic, environmental, telecom and energy policies that will benefit Vermont communities and Mother Earth.

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*Vermonters for a Clean
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A Small Town's Lesson in Vermont's Energy Siting Process

by Jennifer Blay, Lowell Resident and Public Official



The Town of Lowell is a small, close-knit community in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Many families have lived here for generations, and those who choose to move here often do so because they fall in love with the people, the landscape, and the rural character that makes Lowell special.

On October 1, 2025, our town was presented with a petition before the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC) for a large-scale solar development proposed by Northland Solar. For the members of our Selectboard, this was unfamiliar territory. We carefully reviewed the proposal, considered what it would mean for the participating landowners, and weighed those benefits against the impacts on neighboring families, farmland, wildlife habitat, and our community. We also looked at our Town Plan and the regional plan developed by the Northeastern Vermont Development Association.

After reviewing the proposal, the Selectboard concluded that the project was inconsistent with several provisions of both plans and voted to oppose it.

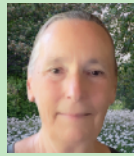
What we did not understand at the time was how difficult the regulatory process would be for ordinary citizens and local officials.

Like many small Vermont towns, Lowell operates with limited resources. I am a full-time teacher and can only serve my community outside of working hours. My fellow Selectboard members are self-employed and often balance multiple responsibilities. We were unable to attend the initial scheduling conference, which was held on Halloween during parent-teacher conferences. When I briefly stepped away from my professional obligations to attempt to join virtually, I was unable to participate.

Shortly afterward, I learned about the process for becoming an intervenor in the PUC proceeding. By then, only four days remained before the filing deadline. I did not know what an intervenor was, how to complete the required paperwork, or what participation would entail. Yet despite my lack of experience, I knew more about the

Message from the Director by Annette Smith

Two Vermonts: Environmental Division



The book [“Two Vermonts, Geography and Identity 1865 - 1910”](#) by Paul Searls describes Vermont’s traditional development patterns:

“These earliest settlers usually chose to place their houses on high points of land to maximize availability of the best soil, avoid flooding, and escape swamp fevers...As clusters of houses evolved into villages, these too were usually located on land distant from large rivers, and generally on the tops or sides of hills.” p. 6

“In the colonial years, few structures or enterprises other than mills were situated on riverbanks, the lowest sites in towns. As frontier conditions passed, the mills attracted commercial traffic. Around the mills soon clustered the houses of professionals and merchants... In Bennington, Windham, and Windsor counties by the 1790s, and throughout the state by the 1810s, the centers of settlement gradually shifted to valleys.” p. 10

In the 27 years VCE has been working in Vermont, we have seen the enshrinement in statute that Vermont’s compact village centers are traditional and historic developments. Act 181 takes the regional planning statute 24 V.S.A. § 4348a to a new extreme — *“support compact centers surrounded by rural and working lands...The downtown or village centers are the traditional and historic central business and civic centers within planned growth areas, village areas, or may stand alone”* — with the goal of pushing commercial and residential development to downtowns and village centers (which often flood) while discouraging rural living.

This rewriting of Vermont’s history has been driven by the agendas of environmental groups that have changed their focus from water, air, land, forests and toxins to greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Everything is now done in the name of “climate change” and “climate emergency” as a “moral imperative.” Shame on anyone who does not heed the call to reduce emissions, no matter what it costs.

Entire generations of children have been indoctrinated into the fear spread by the prophets of the climate religion, led by Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth” and Bill McKibben’s endless doom and gloom campaign. Young people are taught to be afraid; afraid of driving, flying, having children, consuming, while those prophets of doom burn up the atmosphere flying all over the world, living in fancy houses, taking overseas ski vacations, telling everyone else to sacrifice while the messengers of gloom do the opposite. Renewable energy is their sacred cow, where impacts to the environment are ignored in the name of saving the planet, even if it means increasing

stormwater runoff, sacrificing headwater streams, drying up wetlands, covering the finest agricultural soils with solar arrays, blasting mountain tops and filling Class A1 streams above 2500 feet. Don’t ask Vermont’s environmental groups to get involved.

Just as Vermont has two historic settlement patterns — uphill in rural areas away from rivers, and down in the valleys that flood — Vermont now has two environmental divisions. VCE has always taken the position that it doesn’t matter what the technology or project is, what matters is the impact to the environment and our communities. For being agnostic about the type of development, we have been ostracized by the rest of Vermont’s environmental groups who prioritize emissions reductions above all else.

The legislature’s majority has been captured by the group think that has been indoctrinated into the belief that all “renewable” energy technologies are good and must be subsidized at ratepayer expense (even though there is nothing renewable about the glass, aluminum, silicon, steel, rare earth minerals, epoxy, concrete, copper wire, and all that goes into solar arrays and wind turbines). This new world of dictating where we live, what we drive, how we heat and cool our homes, and what we spend our money on, is accompanied by disdain for anyone who does not “get with the program”. The emissions reduction evangelists and their legislative congregation are intolerant and are not interested in listening to other perspectives.

When I asked to testify in the House Energy committee on [H.710, the Single Plant bill](#) that had [major ramifications](#) for wind, solar projects and current PUC cases, the Chair said “no.” We then talked on the phone and the first thing she said was, “you are anti-renewable.” I was pre-judged by someone who had never met me.

The legislature has been hostile territory for VCE, and this year was no exception. Nevertheless, as Alison Despathy describes in her write-ups about Smart Meters, Data Centers, Section 248a and Act 181 legislation, we have made a difference.

We were welcomed by the Senate Agriculture committee, with invited testimony about [protecting agricultural lands](#) from [solar development](#). The attempt to address the loss of farmland was short-lived, as the Senate President Pro Tem threatened to send the rest of the committee’s work to die in another committee if the solar section was not removed. Such is the political reality that reflects the hold the renewable energy industry has on Vermont’s elected representatives, which extends to elections.

Fortunately there is life outside of the legislature. Not so fortunately, most of our work involves Public Utility Commission wind, solar, tower, battery storage land use siting cases that belong in Act 250. *(Continued on p. 7)*

Lowell – *MHG Northland Solar* – PUC Case No. 25-2346

process than many residents who also wanted their voices heard.

One week is simply not enough time for local officials and citizens to learn a complex legal process, understand their rights, and prepare for meaningful participation.

Over the following months, I found myself navigating an entirely new world. I had to learn what “discovery” means, how to prepare testimony, and how rebuttal testimony works. I found myself attempting to advocate for my community in what often felt like a foreign language – a system built on legal terminology, procedural rules, and references to prior cases that few ordinary Vermonters can realistically understand without assistance.

As the process unfolded, I became increasingly concerned about whether local communities truly have a meaningful voice. Vermont towns spend years developing Town Plans that reflect the values and priorities of their residents. Yet many communities discover that those plans carry limited weight unless they are drafted in highly technical legal language. Residents are expected to follow local planning requirements, but developers from outside the community can often pursue projects that conflict with those plans.

Throughout this proceeding, I have argued for the protection of agricultural land that has been farmed since 1902, for the preservation of increasingly rare grassland habitat, and for careful consideration of potential impacts on water resources. Lowell has already contributed significantly to Vermont’s renewable energy goals. Our community hosts infrastructure that supports the largest wind energy facility in the state, generating far more electricity than our town consumes.

Yet that contribution has often been used as an argument for why Lowell should accept even more development.

Many residents feel that communities with limited financial resources face an uphill battle when confronting well-funded developers and utility interests. Small towns simply do not have teams of consultants, attorneys, and experts available to help them navigate lengthy regulatory proceedings.

Fortunately, Vermonters for Clean Environment has helped level the playing field. Their experience with the PUC process, understanding of the regulations, and willingness to assist local communities have been invaluable. Without that guidance, many citizens would have little chance of participating effectively.

Along the way, I have heard many people say, “Why fight? You’re going to lose anyway.” Others have suggested that opposition is pointless because

the outcome is predetermined or that property owners should be able to do whatever they choose with their land regardless of broader community impacts.

But if ordinary citizens believe they cannot influence decisions that affect their communities, something is fundamentally wrong.

This fight is about more than one project. It is about ensuring a fair and transparent process; about recognizing the sacrifices some communities have already made in the name of renewable energy development; about acknowledging that decisions affecting farmland, wildlife habitat, water resources, and neighboring properties have consequences beyond a single parcel of land.

Most Vermonters agree Vermont needs clean energy. The question is not whether we pursue renewable energy, but how and where we do it. As we expand renewable generation, we must carefully balance energy goals with the protection of productive farmland, wildlife habitat, scenic resources, and rural communities.

In July 2024, I visited the Amazon rainforest in Peru and spent time learning from the Maijuna people, an Indigenous community that has experienced significant environmental losses from development pressures. After years of advocacy, they succeeded in protecting nearly one million acres of rainforest. Today, they are witnessing the return of biodiversity and healthier ecosystems through sustainable stewardship.

Working alongside researchers, including partnerships focused on bird conservation, they use indicator species to help monitor the health of their environment.

That experience stayed with me.

While standing in the Amazon, I remember thinking how fortunate I was to live in Vermont – a place whose natural beauty rivals any landscape in the world. I believed that our forests, fields, and wildlife would always be protected by leaders who valued them.

Then I returned home and discovered that Lowell’s own biodiversity is at risk.

The proposed project area provides habitat for grassland birds, including bobolinks, which serve as important indicators of ecosystem health. State regulations may allow habitat losses to be “mitigated” elsewhere, but that raises an important question: How many times can we mitigate the loss of habitat before there is nothing left to protect?

That is a question not only for Lowell, but for all of Vermont.



PUC Site Visit for Lowell Solar in Snow Storm

Vermont's Grassroots Groundswell Grows *by Alison Despathy*

For decades, Vermonters for a Clean Environment (VCE) has been a watchdog looking out for Vermonters, our communities, and the environment. VCE attends local and state level meetings, engages at the State House, watches committee hearings, submits testimony, educates the public and works to support the development of responsible and balanced laws.

VCE monitors policy, supports good public process and works to ensure that Vermonters are not preyed upon. It is often grueling, tedious work but its critical to help prevent Vermont from being taken advantage of.

Special interest groups have been working and engaging in much the same way to move their agendas forward. Well funded and staffed with many lobbyists paid to achieve specific outcomes, groups such as Vermont Natural Resource Council (VNRC), Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), Energy Action Network (EAN) and Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) have gained tremendous influence in the State House, often associated with 501(c)4s or Political Action Committees dedicated to influencing elections.

Money, numbers, biased messaging, social media presence, fancy studies and data, glossy handouts all help special interest drive their 'solutions' home with legislators who seek to solve problems and want answers to difficult issues. It is easy for many to succumb to the whole package without question. Leadership has allowed special interest groups to write policy at the expense of the people and the environment. This is an ancient story – there will always be those who seek to prosper regardless of inflicted harms.

This pattern often results in Vermont positioned as a test case for policy experimentation, a trend that has many people stressed about future viability, land use impacts, environmental degradation, compromises in business opportunities, resource access, use of working lands and risks placed on Vermonters to afford basic necessities such as heat, fuel, electricity, and groceries,

Examples include the Clean Heat Standard, Act 181, the Renewable Energy Standard, the Global Warming Solutions Act, Advanced Clean Car and Truck initiatives. Policies related to energy, land use and climate are burdening Vermonters, communities, businesses, utilities, and our agencies with higher costs, reduced choices, and 'solutions' that do not work. This places Vermont's environmental health and economic viability at risk. Vermonters feel we are increasingly under attack.

Many legislators appear to have forgotten their job as representatives of the people and instead have acted like social engineers, forcing their misguided utopia on others. Instead of

allowing access to options and respecting individuals' ability to choose freely without economic and financial assaults, leadership has inserted themselves and chosen for the people by force and mandates. The distortion places Vermont under duress while special interest desires are prioritized at the expense of Vermont and the environment.

With the Act 181 law passed in 2024 over the Governor's veto, a line was crossed, a property line to be exact and many Vermonters abruptly woke up to this blatant infringement.

It is unfortunate that it had to get this bad and that property rights needed to be threatened for Vermonters to wake up but on the other hand it makes perfect sense.

We elect good, kind people to do the work of the people. We have faith this is happening because we are busy with our lives, working and raising families.

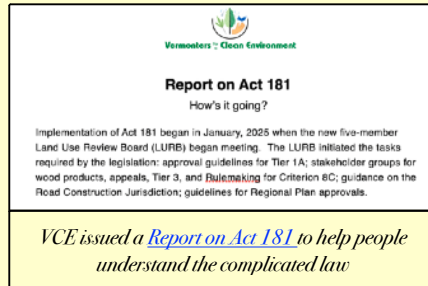
Rural Vermont Rising organically coalesced as more Vermonters tuned in and began to understand the overreach of Act 181 and how it had weaponized Act 250, a good law with an important role for guiding responsible commercial development in Vermont. People saw maps, found their property, wondered what Tier 3 critical resource areas or road rules even meant and viscerally felt a personal attack on themselves, their families and home. Emotions were triggered as many felt violated, saddened, enraged that this law passed by a supermajority over the Governor's veto.

Act 181 was a direct hit on what many work so hard for their entire lives: a piece of land to call home, carve out an existence, grow food, raise a family, start a business. This prompted a response that any would feel when their home is threatened and this primal reaction resulted in an activation of people unlike any we have witnessed in this lifetime.

The numbers grew, word spread like wildfire as neighbors spoke, friends connected, citizen journalists activated and Vermonters dove in to understand what this was and how it happened, resulting in the repeal of Tier 3 and the road rule.

There is still much work to be done to get Vermont back on a steady track that respects and works for Vermonters. Vermont's authentic grassroots network continues to expand, coalitions are growing, education and collaboration are in play, and engagement is happening on local and state levels. This is exactly what is needed to get the work done right.

Civic engagement is an ongoing work in progress and when good people with clear intentions and a will to work come together, it is truly magnificent what is possible. The Rural Vermont Rising movement has clearly demonstrated this fact. Renewed interest in our civic duty is the spirit of this year with the 250 year anniversary of our country and Vermont has definitely heeded the call.



Vermont's Telecommunication Regulation Failure *by Alison Despathy*

During the recent legislative session, the problems with telecom siting received an extensive, honest discussion in the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure (HEDI) committee with H.527, a bill to extend the Section 248a sunset. Testimony from VCE, neighbors and communities struggling with telecom siting and the PUC process surfaced the details and the need for resolution.

Since 2007, telecommunications companies can bypass Vermont's Act 250 land use process and instead apply for a Certificate of Public Good for telecom permits at the Public Utility Commission (PUC), via Section 248a.

The PUC process, which was designed for utility rate cases, is intensely difficult for public participation. The Vermont Supreme Court is deciding an appeal of the PUC's approval of a radio tower in Westmore, near Lake Willoughby, in part due to confusing PUC procedure issues.

VCE described the PUC process to the HEDI committee and explained how it could be altered to better allow [effective participation](#) or how it could sunset to move projects through Act 250, in which Vermonters could more easily participate.

VCE also testified about the health effects of [Radio Frequency \(RF\)](#) radiation and the need for setbacks and RF radiation monitoring and compliance. [Neighbors](#) and towns provided comprehensive in-person and written [testimony](#) explaining the issues and specific examples of problems with the PUC process.

Testimony on H.527 resulted in acknowledgment by the HEDI committee that there is a problem that demands a solution. Committee members used words such as 'enraged' and 'irritated' that this was happening and that people and municipalities are struggling to effectively participate in telecom siting. One committee member compared the federal preemption prohibiting discussion of the health effects of Radio Frequency radiation to the muzzling of any discussion of horrific meat packing industry practices.

From here the story goes downhill with an abject failure of the committee to address the problems. The HEDI committee had a list of the issues with the PUC process and literally handed it to the telecom industry to create language to 'correct'. This irresponsible move was called out during testimony by Gregg Faber, legislative liaison for the PUC.

At this point, the HEDI Chair was frustrated, and said the Senate would fix it.

In the Senate Finance committee, the chair of the committee introduced a bill to make Section 248a permanent, which was supported by the PUC and Department of Public Service.

On April 2, during [testimony](#) to the Senate Finance committee, [Hunter Thompson, the Telecommunications Director at the Public Service Department](#), made a statement regarding telecommunication infrastructure siting,

"Everybody is in favor of throwing one person in the volcano if it means the greater good. Everybody realizes that sacrifices must be made for the greater good.... Nobody ever thinks they're the one that is going to get thrown in the volcano or they're the one that's going to have to make the sacrifice."

VCE does not support sacrificing people for the greater good, without compensation.

All the issues presented in HEDI resurfaced in the Senate and were acknowledged. Most towns do not understand their specific role in the Section 248a process, or the fact that their recommendations are required to be given substantial deference.

Rushing to get rid of the topic, the Senate committee extended the Section 248a sunset another three years. The statute was amended to require towns to hold pre-application meetings, which does nothing to address the impossible PUC process. Floor amendments were attempted by legislators — whose towns were experiencing these telecom siting issues — to sunset Section 248a in one year instead of three. This would have required the legislature to revisit and address the problems with Section 248a sooner versus later. Senators opposed to the one year sunset boasted about making "improvements".

In one sense, "we won." Section 248a is not permanent. Some Representatives and Senators expressed a commitment to take up the topic early in the next session.

Vermonters for a Clean Environment will continue to support communities and neighbors in the Section 248a process at the PUC and will also advocate at the State House to rectify this compromised Section 248a process with goals of accessible public process and RF radiation protections for Vermonters.



*ITW's Fairfax Tower
with T-Mobile Antennas*

Why Did the Governor Veto the Data Center Bill? *by Alison Despathy*

Vermonters for a Clean Environment (VCE) participated in the development of a responsible data center bill, H.727. Despite these efforts, Governor Scott's veto of the bill was justified due to the Senate's massive fumble.

Most are well aware that data centers are wreaking havoc throughout the country: guzzling power, contaminating water and land, destroying aquifers, causing droughts, increasing electric rates, disrupting neighbors with [noise pollution](#) (infrasound) and Radio Frequency radiation exposure.

Some argue that Vermont will not attract data centers because of higher electric rates and heavy regulation and permitting. However, the demand is real. We researched existing policy and gaps to understand what is needed.

H.727 cruised out of the House with strong support and protections in place for water, ratepayers, the electrical grid and pollution to be regulated via joint jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission and Act 250.

Data centers are a perfect example of the importance of Act 250 for guiding development.

Next stop was the Senate and here the bill took a hard left turn into the land of extremism and bad policy.

The first deathblow came in the form of an 'Energy Transformation Payment', basically an extortion fee or saying it gentler "Pay to Play" as called out by TJ Poor, Director of Planning at the Department of Public Service. On May 8, he testified that the Department could not support H.727 with the newly added Energy Transformation Payment. His [written testimony](#) stated,

"The Energy Transformation Payment is a provision that will cause the Department to oppose the bill. The Energy Transformation Payment – approximately \$6 million per year – was added to published legislation yesterday. I understand the extraction of cash from prospective Vermont businesses through the Energy

Transformation Payment is intended to achieve emissions reductions above and beyond the requirements of the renewable energy standard but would fail to sufficiently and quickly achieve its intent of encouraging greenhouse gas reductions."

This was the result of a committee chair listening to special interest groups, instead of considering the advice of experts. Senate Natural Resources & Energy Chair Watson could have addressed this, should have sought a solution but chose not to. So let's be honest here, the data center bill was killed by Chair Watson who refused to seek compromise.

The Senate committee also added [language](#) beneficial to the industry that further compromised the bill, allowing data centers an unfair advantage to pollute if they received a permit to withdraw surface water. This is analogous to regulating the faucet and then ignoring the drain and the pollution discharged from the system. On May 19, the Land Use Review Board issued a [memo](#) and testified in the House Energy committee raising a red flag about the Senate version of the bill. Nothing was done in response.

Conversations with legislators about the harmful noise pollution including [infrasound](#) and Radio Frequency radiation exposures which accompany data centers were all dismissed. Infrasound is also produced by wind turbines. Vermont Public Interest Research Group's lobbyist strenuously objected to regulating infrasound produced by data centers because it could affect wind turbine development.

Hopefully Vermonters can see through the propaganda because the Governor's veto of the data center bill is being manipulated for political gain. Special interest organizations have ignored key issues and are taking advantage of people's lack of information and warranted fears of data center impacts. What started as a thoughtful, effective bill shape-shifted into irresponsible policy that demanded a veto.

Are Smart Meters Really That 'Smart'? *by Alison Despathy*

Smart meters are utility meters that rely on Radio Frequency (RF) radiation to gather and share data related to electricity, water or gas usage. Legitimate concerns exist for smart meters including fire hazards, cybersecurity, privacy and data mining issues and health and safety risks.

Thanks to Vermonters for a Clean Environment (VCE) which led the effort in 2012, Vermont has the best opt-out law in the nation for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) or "smart meter" for electric users. People in other states strive towards Vermont's law. Current statute allows anyone to refuse a smart meter; no explanations, no charge. One can also request their smart meter be removed, anytime; no questions and no fees.

This past legislative session, the smart meter opt out was at risk with bill [S.213](#), a well-intentioned effort to mandate an opt out for smart meters used for public water systems, but were allowed to charge a fee. Electric utilities tagged along and pushed to get an opt-out fee for electricity smart meters. The House Energy and Digital Infrastructure committee heard testimony from two public water suppliers in Vermont that were already providing a fee-based opt out, and said there is no need for the legislation.

VCE responded to S.213 by offering the House committee a list of questions including: how many electric utility customers were opting out and why, and what percentage of opt outs were low income Vermonters. No testimony was taken from people affected. The proposal left the cost of opting out to be determined by the PUC in individual utility rate cases. The committee decided not to move this bill forward. There was clearly a need for comprehensive discussion before changing the statute.

(Cont'd from p. 2) **Updates on PUC Energy cases**

Vermont Renewable Gas (VRG) biomass plant – A technology new to Vermont and the U.S. proposes to heat wood chips using pyrolysis to create gas to generate electricity. If permitted, the company wants to build similar plants all over the state. Numerous people and businesses are within 2500 feet of the project site in the Lyndon/St. Johnsbury Industrial Park, including a day care, church,



medical services, apartments, and propane storage tanks within 500 feet. [The project](#) raises numerous issues for neighbors, including fire and explosions, air pollution, traffic, noise, impacts to water supplies, and wood sourcing.

Vergennes battery storage – LightShift, backed by Greenbacker Capital, proposes a [battery storage facility](#) next to a residential area in Vergennes that threatens the neighbor's investment in historic housing preservation and plans for new housing. After hearing complaints, the company says the project is "on hold".



Shaftsbury Solar – Neighbors appealed the PUC's approval to the Vermont Supreme Court. [Briefing](#) is complete. Oral argument is next.

Jason Day, Starwind Turbines, Howrigan Wind – Despite active opposition by the regional planning commission, the Town of Fairfield, the Fairfield Pond Association and landowners, the PUC approved Jason Day's Starwind Turbines [on a ridgeline in Fairfield](#). However, Jason's business is gone. His E. Dorset manufacturing plant was sold in May, and his last project in Glover is a failure. One turbine collapsed, the others are being removed.

GMP Searsburg – Green Mountain Power submitted an [Advance Notice](#) with the intention of applying sometime in the next year for 3 3.5 MW 567 foot tall wind turbines to replace the 11 600 kW 197 foot tall wind turbines that were erected in 1997. REV claims there is a moratorium on wind due to the noise rule. GMP apparently doesn't agree.

Melone/Apple Hill Solar – The litigious solar developer offered to withdraw Apple Hill Solar in Bennington and [the PUC ended that project](#). [Chelsea Solar is in the PUC process for the third time](#). Thomas Melone's Petition of Misconduct is ongoing at the [Professional Responsibility Board](#). Melone hired six lawyers, including five from Hogan Lovells, one of the largest law firms in the country.

Updates on PUC Tower cases

Westmore – The PUC's approval of ITW's tower was appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court. [Briefing](#) and [Oral Argument](#) are complete. Court's decision is pending.

Manchester – The PUC Hearing Officer proposed to deny the project. Verizon asked for [oral argument](#), the Town participated. A decision by the PUC is pending.

Tinmouth – ITW's tower proposal [continues](#) with Intervenor's prefiled testimony due July 29.

Rochester – July 16 is the [scheduling](#) conference for Verizon's tower.

Pownal – The Hearing Officer issued a proposal for decision to approve the AT&T tower. [Comments](#) were submitted by parties.

Enosburgh – Neighbors have intervened. A [scheduling](#) conference has not yet been set.

After I put the above list together I realized that in every one of these contested cases, the company has reduced the height of the tower. This is one tactic used to claim "mitigation". We saw this with wind turbines, too, where more than is needed is proposed and then the developers scale them back, saying they listened to the communities. It's all part of the game.



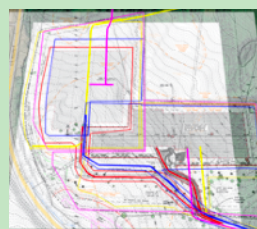
PUC Hearing Officer and Legislative Liaison Gregg Faber, MHG Solar's Thomas Hand, VCE's Alison Despathy, Lowell Select Board Chair Jennifer Blay at the Lowell Solar Site Visit

This year we said Happy Retirement to John Brabant, who worked with us for the last 10 years. John has contributed enormously to protecting Vermont's environment, and the state is a better place because of him. Thank you, John.

I am grateful to live and work in beautiful Vermont, and to meet so many amazing and interesting people. With all that is going on the world, we have a lot to be happy about. It is more important than ever to find joy in life and focus on the positive. When I first started this work, someone told me "don't get mad, get organized." I will add, "don't get depressed, get active."

Thank you for supporting VCE.

Annette



All the variations of the two contiguous Melone solar projects in Bennington since 2013

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Printed on 100% recycled paper.

VCE Annual Meeting

Tinmouth, Vermont

July 29, 2026

Refreshments at 5 pm

Meeting: 5:30 - 7 pm



Please RSVP to Annette
at vce@vce.org
for
location and directions.

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