PLANNING BOARD
Town of Kirkwood
70 Crescent Drive
Kirkwood, NY 13795

PUBLIC HEARING
September 30, 2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WILL HOLD A CONTINUANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SITE PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION AND SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION OF NORBUT SOLAR FARMS REGARDING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 149 QUILTY HILL ROAD (TM # 147.00-1-2.2 & 147.00-1-7.11) AND PROPERTY LOCATED AT 165 FOLEY ROAD (TM # 147.00-1-2.11) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A 15MWAC SOLAR FARM. THE CONTINUANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 AT 7:00 PM AT THE FLOYD BELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 15 GOLDEN STREET, KIRKWOOD, NY.

Chairman Woolbaugh read the notice of public hearing. Chairman Woolbaugh read into the record the rules for the public hearing, which is included in the file.

Chairman Woolbaugh opened the public hearing to public participation at 7:01 p.m.

Scott Ferguson, 167 Foley Road, commented they are right beneath where the solar panels are proposed to go. He has talked about concerns before, the stormwater runoff, but they are really concerned about the wells. They have talked about it before but he has new information. On August 5, 2025, the Town Board had a meeting to discuss their own water supply and the wells that supply water to the Town. In that meeting they talked about doing construction in the aquifer. One thing that they mentioned was that they were not going to allow construction in an aquifer that had a grade of 15% or greater. They think that is pertinent to what is going on over at the Quilty Hill Road and Foley Road project because they are proposing construction in their aquifer that supplies water to their wells and that grade is over 20%. They are very concerned that we have a very different set of rules and they agree with protecting the water sources for the Town and their problem is they don't have the availability to have water pipes run down their road to give them an additional supply. They have to depend on their own wells and their wells are shallow; they had water at 10 feet. There are shallow wells all down the street. They are requesting that they have the same criteria for them as the rest of the Town.

Joshua Osf, Arkport, NY, President and Business Agent for the Laborers Local 785, commented that he knows it gets brought up at these meetings when someone speaks and doesn't actually live in the Town of Kirkwood. He lives in Arkport, not the Town of Kirkwood but he is not hear speaking for himself, he is here representing the Local 785, including the 167 members who we have living in Broome County. He held up an authorization for representation and every one of their members sign it, past, present, and future, it covers all jobs and everything in between. Their members sign these forms giving him the opportunity and authority to represent them when it comes time to speak on current and future work opportunities. Not everyone wants to come up here and speak with a room full of people, not everyone can make it to a meeting like this, it doesn't mean they don't care about what happens here, they have jobs, families and kids and have responsibilities. Part of his job is to be their voice when they can't be here. Projects like this matters to these people. Local Laborers use that money right here in the area. These are people who live in Broome County and the surrounding communities. They buy homes here, shop here, pay taxes here and raise their families here. These

projects provide good wages, health care, retirement benefits and opportunities for journey workers and apprentices alike who are trying to build a career. At the same time, this particular project is a responsible green energy project. We can support green energy by making sure the people doing the work are local and benefit from them. He is asking the Planning Board to move this project forward and approve it. A lot of working families depend on this kind of construction work and there is a way to bring responsible development, local jobs, and green energy together. He may not personally live in Kirkwood but he represents the people who live in this community and their voices deserve to be heard just like anybody else. Their interest in this project, current and future jobs, deserves to be recognized and be made part of the public record.

Catana Yehudal commented she is a member of Laborers Local 785 and lives in Broome County. Having a good construction worker availability locally is important to her and her family. In construction sometimes the next job could be an hour or two hours away or even further away from home. The projects like this solar project are building locally, it gives people an opportunity to earn a living without spending several hours a day traveling. It also means that the wages earned building this project can come back into Broome County. We live here, we shop here, we eat here and we support businesses here. That is one of the reasons local construction opportunities matter so much to us. They see their families, this is in their backyard. They just want to contribute to their community, to their family, to their local union and just make a living. They don't want to fuss or fight, it is just life and they live here. They have so many apprentices and young people, let them have an opportunity to feed their families, to learn the local trade of building solar. They are not unfamiliar with solar; they have been doing solar for a while. It isn't like they don't know what is happening with solar. They don't have to be taught because they have been doing it for a while. We appreciate you for hearing them out and try to build something together to make this work.

Gavin Phetphongsy commented he is a Local 785 member. One of the reasons why he is here tonight is to show you guys that this project will prevent them from traveling farther. A solar project isn't just panels sitting in a field, a lot of construction that has to be done with many steps that have to be taken. Solar panel jobs create opportunities for our local journeymen and my fellow apprentices to use and learn their skills, earn good wages, support their families and that money can be used to help our union build more projects, can help our fellow community and the project is used to help our community.

Aiden Barron commented he is from Upper Lisle and he is here to represent members of the Local 785. This solar job will create jobs for all of us and will help give back to the communities that are involved with it. It will help give back to everybody else, help create jobs for everyone involved. Solar construction requires a lot of work. Site preparation includes excavation, and installing the infrastructure needed to be built for the project. These jobs are local, from the local skilled trades people. Just because these people aren't who you think they are, they have been doing this for a long time, they have been it for a long time. It is his first year and he is here to provide for his family and friends.

Jeremy Stanton commented he is a member of the Laborers Local 785, he lives in Broome County, and construction is how he provides for his family. Solar projects like this create opportunities for people like me to work close to home instead of having to travel hours away to find work. When local workers build these projects the money we earn stays right here in the area to spend at local stores, restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses. Solar projects can provide good jobs while also producing clean energy right here in our community.

Martin Kennerup, Jr., 155 Foley Road commented first off you are the Planning Board and you represent the Town of Kirkwood. This has been going on for three years. During those three years there have been countless meetings, countless public hearings and not one person has spoken in favor of solar panels. It is an environmental catastrophe. Back at one of the meetings, back in June, the environmental skew that we did, that you people did, that the solar company did, he brought up 17 different things, that they just kind of checked things off. We have bald eagles nesting on that property; they are a federally protected wildlife. You can't just build a fence around it and say go ahead and do what you want to do. There is also a water aquifer, there are federal laws, along with state laws, local laws, and town laws. Also, you have the same laws that deal with how close a solar panel can be placed to a residence. He has been told that we have the numbers, they know the numbers. Just from the environmental standpoint and it has been quoted by Steve at one of the meetings that if lighting strikes and a fire starts just let it burn. We all know, we are all bright enough in this room, that toxins will come off from the burning solar panel. We all know that. What happens with all that smoke? If that happens we are going to pay for it for 100 years down the road, from all that toxin settling into things. It is something that we need to just think properly. Thank you for your time and remember you work for the residents of the Town of Kirkwood and not one individual that lives in the Town of Kirkwood since 2023 has come out in public support of the project.

Josiah Bailey commented he lives in the Town of Kirkwood and he would like to be the first person to come out to support this because I hear nobody does. It is his first time attending a meeting and wasn't planning on speaking today but wanted to show there are people who do support it.

Michael Dundon commented he would like to begin by thanking the Planning Board for allowing us a chance to speak. He is a lifelong Broome County resident, an 18-year member of Laborers Local 785 and currently a Binghamton City Council President. His city council district is the east side of Binghamton which runs right a long the Kirkwood town border. He is in full support of the NSF Kirkwood Solar project. This project will put local people to work. When he says local he means Broome County residents. Laborers Local 785 has 167 members that live in Broome County, with some in attendance tonight. Out of those 167 members there are 20 apprentices. These young adults that grew up in this community, some recently graduating high school, which you have seen tonight, these apprentices with the help of projects like this will be able to gain the skills to become a journey worker in the near future. An apprenticeship is an earn while you learn program that will offer these young adults a real middle-class lifestyle while continuing to live in the community that they grew up in. As an apprentice they are accruing hours towards a pension, their annuity, full medical benefits all while being trained in a respected trade. Investing in local jobs is more than just the economic benefits, it is truly an investment in the residents in the community. It is the residents that make up the very fabric of our amazing community. Many of the Local 785 members in attendance volunteer across Broome County, whether it is coaching youth sports, being active in a school PTA, volunteer fire fighters, you name it. He would like to end on a quote by Mitch Albom, Invest in the human family. Invest in people. Build a little community of those you love and who love you. This is our community, more importantly our home and we would love the opportunity to build this project.

James Jackson, 127 Foley Road commented it sounds well and good you guys want to work in the county, go work someplace else. Because when you guys are done in 15 months and you guys go by by we are still going to be stuck living with this stuff, the environmental runoff, the flooding, the over run, and they aren't going to have to worry about it, we are. His backyard and front yard in the summer gets flooded out. With these guys they are going to be gone, so who cares that is them.

Hearing no other comments Chairman Woolbaugh closed the public hearing at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Kay Sullivan
Secretary, Kirkwood Planning Board