

Article 64 — Where are we ?

regarding solar arrays on ten acres of Concord land

RE THE SUBSTANCE, of the question

Assertion:

“We must have Article 64, to move ahead. Only if companies prepare proposals can Concord act.”

Fact:

- Not true – resoundingly. In fact, we *must not* have financial interests driving our planning process. We should have a neutral expert, to help us plan, instead.

Assertion:

“We can get a ‘good deal,’ low prices, now. So we should do it.”

Fact:

- Concord may actually do better, by waiting at least a year. See solar.concord-trustingtheprocess.org/ifYear.html, for the calculation.
- More profoundly, the real costs of solar are at least double other renewables. Dollars we put there deprive us of double the power – and hence further reduced carbon – unless we choose responsibly.

But. Concord must act – wisely – to move to renewables. Particularly, we need more power generation in-town – economics drives it. So, what has the Town process so far given us?

RE THE PROCESS, so far — *the real issue before us*

- We have a proposal started by outside financial interests – but not yet developed through trusted governance, across Concord’s annual Town Meeting cycle.
- Work is so preliminary that the land parcels to use are in flux and total usable acreage, apparently, may be no more than half.
- The Light Plant board was not informed until recently.

We can do better than this — we must.

Most of us feel that a move to renewables is essential. Rather than an artificial debate over an article that is not ready, where both ‘yay’ and ‘nay’ feel we need renewables:

We need not to move Article 64. Then we can affirm our commitment to renewables. And proceed with a trusted, transparent process. Where we get good decisions.

And pride.