

Received by e-mail 1/22/14

Dear Natural Resources and Energy Commission:

Woodstock is one of the best known historic communities in Vermont. It is dependent on tourism for its economy which in turn is heavily dependent on its historic look. This economy is due to years of hard work and diligent planning efforts that have been required to preserve this precious historic look. This look garners numerous awards, most recently this week from The Huffington Post.

In the Village, Design Review regulations have protected this valued look for the past thirty plus years. Yet now we are told alternative energy devices (and telecommunications) are exempt from local regulation. Woodstock does support alternative energy devices, there is a small solar farm just north of the Village and a number of small wind turbines in the ridgelines. However, the look of the Village's 1800 architecture would be forever changed if solar panels were allowed on every roof top or worse yet stand-alone rack mounted systems in every front yard.

It was noted setbacks should be adhered to. Why not allow these devices to be reviewed by local regulations where communities have made an effort to control architectural renovations. Communities with Design Review Regulations, that have taken pride and recognition of their historic architecture should be allowed to continue with these procedures.

Just imagine the north side of The Green in Woodstock covered in solar panels. Woodstock's look is a precious commodity that should not be taken lightly.

Please let me know if I can further assist this committee in addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Brands, AICP
Town/Village Planner
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