



## ***Town of Lancaster***

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**Office of the  
Conservation Agent**

Date: November 19, 2020

From: David Koonce, Conservation Agent  
To: Lancaster Planning Board

**RE: Update on ZeroPoint solar array violations and request to issue Stop Work Order**

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

As the Board is aware, construction of the west-side ZeroPoint solar array on Old Union Turnpike is causing extensive soil erosion off of the steep hillside even during modestly-sized rain events, with large volumes of silt-laden stormwater discharging from the project site into the wetlands immediately adjacent to the east and extending downstream to White Pond, in which significant silt deposition continues to accumulate.

The on-going damage to wetland resource areas is a major violation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Town of Lancaster Wetlands Protection Bylaw, and Town of Lancaster Stormwater Control Bylaw. In a series of attempts to get control of the situation, the Conservation Commission has issued a total of five (5) Enforcement Orders against the project since March 2, 2020. The most recent Enforcement Order, approved at the Commission's November 10, 2020 meeting, prohibits any further construction activity until an Order of Conditions permitting construction to resume is issued pursuant to the filing of a Notice of Intent no later than December 8, 2020.

The Commission also voted at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to respectfully request the Planning Board issue a Stop Work Order, extending until the Commission issues an Order of Conditions, for violation of the project's Stormwater Permit.

On behalf of the Conservation Commission, thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Koonce  
Conservation Agent