

**CITY OF SALEM
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING BOARD
MARCH 7, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.**

The Salem City Council will hold a Joint Public Meeting with the Planning Board on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing two (2) Zoning Ordinance Amendments relative to Buffer Zones for Marijuana Establishments and Green Infrastructure via remote participation in accordance with Chapter 40A, SS 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws and in accordance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

Individuals may participate remotely in the meeting via a remote participation platform called Zoom. Members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting may access the remote participation meeting through any one of the following ways:

If wishing to make comment, please use the raise my hand feature.

- Enter this link below into your web browser to join the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81495105275?pwd=Yk1LcGxvYzRHRko0NEZwSUQxaUJIZz09>
Password: 063213

- Go to the website link <https://zoom.us/join>. Enter Webinar ID: 814 9510 5275 followed by the meeting password noted above if necessary.

- By Telephone: Participants can dial a toll-free phone number at 888-475-4499 or 877-853-5257 (Toll Free) to join the meeting. When prompted, enter Webinar ID#: 814 9510 5275 and follow the instructions to join the meeting. Those dialing in may press *9 to raise your hand to speak.

SATV will still be airing this meeting live on Channel 22.

Very truly yours,

ATTEST:

ILENE SIMONS

“Persons requiring auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, or print material in digital format or a reasonable modification in programs, services, policies, or activities, may contact the City of Salem ADA Coordinator at (978-619-5630) as soon as possible and no less than 2 business days before the meeting, program, or event.”

“Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25, and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033.”

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A Joint Public Hearing of the City Council and Planning Board was held remotely on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing two (2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment relative to Buffer Zones for Marijuana Establishments and Green Infrastructure via remote participation in accordance with Chapter 40A, SS 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws and in accordance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021. The complete text of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance is noted below and on file and available for inspection by calling or emailing the City Clerk's Office, 93 Washington Street, Salem, MA at 978-619-5610 or isimons@salem.com or the Department of Planning & Community Development, 2nd floor, City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street, Salem, MA. 978-619-5685.

Notice of this meeting was posted on February 24, 2022, at 1:19 P.M. and advertised in the Salem News on February 21, 2022 & February 28, 2022.

Absent were:

Councillor Patricia Morsillo Presiding

Councillor Morsillo introduced the Planning Board

Also in attendance were the following:

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**ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO BUFFER ZONES FOR MARIJUANA
ESTABLISHMENTS (SEE COMPLETE TEXT BELOW)**

Appearing in Favor:

Appearing Opposed:

Councillor Riccardi	Moved that the Public Hearing be Closed by RCV	Yeas	Nays	Abs
Councillor Riccardi	Moved that the matter be referred to the Planning Board for their recommendation by RCV	Yeas	Nays	Abs

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**ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (SEE
COMPLETE TEXT BELOW)**

Appearing in Favor:

Appearing Opposed:

Councillor Riccardi	Moved that the Public Hearing be Closed by RCV	Yeas	Nays	Abs
Councillor Riccardi	Moved that the matter be referred to the Planning Board for their recommendation by RCV	Yeas	Nays	Abs

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ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO BUFFER ZONES FOR MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

An Ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance regarding buffer zones relative to marijuana establishments.

Section 1. Section 6.10.6 of the Code of Zoning Ordinances is amended by replacing (5) in its entirety with the following:

“5. Pursuant to M.G.L.A. c. 94G, § 5(b)(3), a marijuana establishment shall not be located within five hundred (500) feet of a pre-existing public or private school providing education in kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12.”

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

An Ordinance to amend an ordinance relative to zoning.

Section 1. Amend Section 3.1 Table of Principal and Accessory Use Regulations by inserting the following uses within C. Commercial Uses and E. Accessory Uses:

<i>C. Commercial Uses</i>	RC	R1	R2	R3	B1	B2	B4	B5	BPD	NRCC	I
Medium-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy System	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy System	PB	PB	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>E. Accessory Uses</i>											
Roof-Mounted Solar Energy System	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Small-Scale Ground Mounted Energy System	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Medium-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy System	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Section 2. Amend Section 4.1.2 Notes to Table of Dimensional Requirements by inserting the phrase “roof-mounted solar energy systems” immediately following the word “ventilators” as it appears in paragraph 7 and further amend this Section by inserting the following new paragraphs:

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“8. Small- and medium-scale ground mounted solar energy systems accessory to principal use may be located no closer than ten (10) feet from the front, side, or rear lot line.

9. Lot Coverage-Ground mounted solar energy systems shall not count towards building coverage as defined in Section 10.0 definitions.”

Section 3. Amend Section 5 General Regulations by adding the following new sections:

“5.4. BICYCLE PARKING

5.4.1 Purposes. Bicycling infrastructure in Salem is a basic necessity to residents, visitors, and employers and can provide a key “last mile” connection to destinations throughout the city. The purpose of this section is to provide specific guidelines to project proponents to determine the type, location, and amount of bicycle parking required for each development project. The intended result is to require development projects to include bicycle parking that enhances the project’s value and helps to make Salem a more desirable place to live, work, and visit.

5.4.2. Requirements.

The required minimum quantity of bicycle parking spaces is as outlined below. Additional bicycle spaces are encouraged but are not required beyond the minimum stated.

Single-family and two-family residential: none

Residential with three or more units: 1 long-term bicycle space per unit, 1 short-term space per 4 units

Commercial/Industrial/Exempt or Institutional: 1 long-term space per 4 employees. Number of short-term spaces to be determined by the Planning Board, but shall not be less than 2.

5.4.3 Additional Notes. Fractions of spaces shall be rounded up to a whole number. Minimum bicycle storage consists of one double-sided rack. Total employees for this purpose is the maximum number of employees present on premises at one time.

Section 5.5 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

5.5.1 Purposes. In line with the Massachusetts Decarbonization Roadmap to reduce carbon emissions by at least 85% by 2050 and the City of Salem’s Resilient Together Mobility Goals, the City will encourage use of electric vehicles by further enabling electric vehicle charging. As of 2017, the transportation sector accounted for 42% of greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth and 43% of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Salem. Electric Vehicles offer the most promising option for replacing internal combustion engine vehicles.

5.5.2 Requirements. New developments of 5,000-square-feet or larger shall have 25% of parking spaces be installed with Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment; and the remaining 75% of parking spaces shall be Electric Vehicle-Ready for future installation.”

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Section 4. Amend Section 6 Special Regulations by adding the following new section:

“Section 6.12-Solar Energy Facilities

6.12.1 Purpose. The purpose of this section is to accommodate solar energy facilities in appropriate locations, while minimizing any adverse visual, safety, and environmental impacts of the facilities.

6.12.2 Applicability. This section applies to all uses identified as requiring a site plan review per Section 9.5.2 or a special permit for ground mounted solar energy facilities per Section 3.1, Table of Uses.

6.12.3 Siting Preferences. Where a solar facility is sited, as well as placement on the site once selected, is an important consideration. The City strongly discourages locations that result in significant loss of land and natural resources, including farm and forest land, and encourages rooftop siting, as well as locations in industrial and commercial districts, or on vacant, disturbed land. Significant tree cutting is problematic because of the important water management, cooling, and climate benefits trees provide.

6.12.4 Dimensional Regulations

1. Height- For primary uses see Section 4, Table 4.1.1. For accessory uses see Section 4.1.2.7
2. Setbacks- For primary uses see Section 4, Table 4.1.1. For small- and medium-scale ground mounted solar energy systems accessory to principal use may be located no closer than ten (10) feet from the front, side, or rear lot line. All ground-mounted solar energy systems in residential districts shall be installed either in the side yard or rear yard to the extent practicable.
3. Lot Coverage-Ground mounted solar energy systems shall not count towards building coverage as defined in Section 10.0 definitions.

6.12.5 Special Permit.

1. The Planning Board is hereby designated the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) for solar energy systems. The SPGA shall adopt rules relative to the application for special permits for ground mounted solar plan approval and file a copy with the City Clerk. After notice and public hearing and after due consideration of the reports and recommendations of other city boards, commissions and or departments, the SPGA may grant such a permit. The SPGA shall also impose, in addition to any applicable conditions specified in this section, such applicable conditions as the SPGA finds reasonably appropriate to improve the site design to serve the purposes of this section.
2. The Planning Board shall include as part of its special permit review and proceedings all the provisions and requirements of the Site Plan Review standards applicable to large-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. See Section 9.4 for additional Special Permit Requirements.

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6.12.6 Large and Medium Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy System Site Plan Review

1. Site Plan Documentation Required. In addition to the requirements of Section 9.5, the following items shall be included:

- (a) Blueprints or drawings of the solar energy system showing the proposed layout of the system, any potential shading from nearby structures, the distance between the proposed solar collector and all property lines and existing on-site buildings and structures, and the tallest finished height of the solar collector;
- (b) Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the panels, mounting system, and inverter(s);
- (c) Additional requirements for large scale ground mounted solar energy systems
 - (i) One or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all Massachusetts Electric Code (527 CMR 12.00) compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
 - (ii) Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site (see also Solar Design Guideline Document);
 - (iii) An operation and maintenance plan (see Solar Design Guideline Document);
 - (iv) Proof of liability insurance; and

6.12.7 Large and Medium Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy System Maintenance, Removal, and Abandonment

1. Monitoring and Maintenance.

- (a) Solar Energy System Installation Conditions - The ground-mounted solar energy system owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the Building Commissioner. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the solar energy system and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.
- (b) Modifications - All material modifications to a ground-mounted solar energy system made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Site Plan Review Authority.

2. Abandonment or Decommissioning

- (a) Removal Requirements-Any ground-mounted solar energy system which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Subsection (b), below of this ordinance shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Site Plan Review Authority by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal.

Decommissioning shall consist of:

- (i) Physical removal of all solar energy systems, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.
- (ii) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.

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(iii) Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Site Plan Review Authority may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

(b) Abandonment-Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the large-scale ground-mounted solar energy system shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the Site Plan Review Authority. If the owner or operator of the solar energy system fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within 150 days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the town retains the right, after the receipt of an appropriate court order, to enter and remove an abandoned, hazardous, or decommissioned large-scale ground-mounted solar energy system. As a condition of Site Plan approval, the applicant and landowner shall agree to allow entry to remove an abandoned or decommissioned installation.

6.12.8 Site Plan Review-Roof-mounted and Small-scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems

1. Applicability-Where these solar energy systems may be accessory to a use allowed through Site Plan Review, the Site Plan Review shall include review of their adequacy, location, arrangement, size, design, and general site compatibility.

6.12.9 Pre-Existing Non-Conforming Uses and Structures

Improvements that do not change the use or the basic exterior characteristics of the building or structure are allowed. Such improvements include but are not limited to the installation or replacement of solar energy systems."

Section 5. Amend Section 8.4.15 *Site Plan Review* of Section 8.4 *North River Canal Corridor Neighborhood Mixed Use District* by inserting the following additional site plan requirement as the fourth requirement and renumbering the requirements to a total of five:

"4. Adequate net-zero-energy plan;"

Section 6. Amend Section 9.4.2 *Criteria* of Section 9.4 *Special Permits* within Section 9 *Administration and Procedures* by deleting the following:

"5.Impacts on the natural environment including view; and"

and replacing it with the following:

"5.Impacts on the natural environment including greenhouse gas emissions and view; and"

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Section 7. Amend Section 9.5.2 *Applicability* of Section 9.5 *Site Plan Review* within Section 9 *Administration and Procedures* by adding the following at the end of paragraph number 2:

“; or

3. Large scale ground mounted solar energy system in the R3, B2, B4, B5, BPD, NRCC, or I district; or
4. Medium scale ground mounted solar energy system in the RC, R1, R2, or R3 district.”

Section 8. Amend Section 9.5.3 *Application* of Section 9.5 *Site Plan Review* within Section 9 *Administration and Procedures* by deleting the phrases “fifteen (15) copies of” and “include fifteen (15) copies of” as they appear in the first paragraph and further amend this Section by adding the following to the end of this Section:

- “11. Plans depicting the property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;
12. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures;
13. Locations of active farmland, wetlands, permanently protected open space, Priority Habitat Areas and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape Core Habitat mapped by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and “Important Wildlife Habitat” mapped by the DEP.
14. Locations of floodplains or inundation areas for moderate or high hazard dams; and
15. Locations of local or National Historic Districts.
16. Location, arrangement, size, and design of roof mounted and small-scale ground mounted solar energy systems.”

Section 9. Amend Section 9.5.4 *Narrative* of Section 9.5 *Site Plan Review* within Section 9 *Administration and Procedures* by inserting the Phrase “, including parking with electric vehicle charging stations and parking for bicycles;” at the end of paragraph number 2 and further amending this Section by inserting the following after paragraph number 8 and renumbering the requirements to a total of 10:

- “9. Sustainability and resiliency, including energy planning and alignment with local climate mitigation goals;”

Section 10. Amend Section 9.5.5 *Distribution* of Section 9.5 *Site Plan Review* within Section 9 *Administration and Procedures* by replacing the words “his” with “their” as they appear in the first paragraph and further amending the first paragraph of this Section by inserting the phrase “Head of the Sustainability Department or their designee,” immediately preceding the phrases “Board of Health”.

Section 11. Amend Section 9.5.6 *Review Criteria* of Section 9.5 *Site Plan Review* within Section 9 *Administration and Procedures* by adding the following to the end of this Section:

- “14. Adequacy of bicycle parking facilities and number of bicycle parking spaces proposed for each development;
15. Adequacy of electric vehicle charging station;
16. Adequacy and general site compatibility of roof mounted and small-scale ground mounted solar energy systems; and
17. Adequacy of a net-zero-energy plan to outline site energy uptake, creation, and consumption.”

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Section 12. Amend Section 10 *Definitions* by adding the following new definitions:

“Electric Vehicle (EV): Any vehicle that is licensed and registered for operation on public and private highways, roads, and streets and that operates exclusively on electrical energy from an off-board source that is stored in the vehicle’s batteries, producing zero tailpipe emissions or pollution when stationary or operating.

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE): Equipment for the purpose of transferring electric energy to a battery or other energy storage device in an electric vehicle.

Electric-Vehicle-Ready: Electric-Vehicle-Ready shall mean providing raceway to every parking space, adequate space in the electrical panel and space for additional transformer capacity to accommodate the future installation of the transformer, if necessary.

Long-term Bicycle Parking: Long-term Bicycle Parking must be located in an enclosed, limited-access area designed to protect bicycles from precipitation and from theft, such as bicycle lockers, covered bicycle sheds, or bicycle rooms within a building.

Net-zero energy site: a site that is optimally efficient, and over the course of a year, generates energy onsite, using clean renewable resources, in a quantity equal to or greater than the total amount of energy consumed onsite.

Net-zero-energy plan: A document outlining a development’s energy sources, locations (on or off-site), and consumption. The Plan outlines how the development can become a net-zero energy site, as defined above; or, why achieving net-zero energy site is not possible through renewable resources on-site, given site or other constraints.

Photovoltaic System (also referred to as Photovoltaic Installation): An active solar energy system that converts solar energy directly into electricity.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of the photovoltaic system in watts of Direct Current (DC).

Short-term Bicycle Parking: Short-term bicycle parking must be located in a publicly accessible space within 50 feet of pedestrian entrances. Short-term bicycle parking is intended primarily to serve visitors, such as retail patrons making trips of up to a few hours; however, it may serve other bicycle users as needed.

Solar Access: The access of a solar energy system to direct sunlight.

Solar Collector: A device, structure or a part of a device or structure for which the primary purpose is to transform solar radiant energy into thermal, mechanical, chemical, or electrical energy.

Solar Energy: Radiant energy received from the sun that can be collected in the form of heat or light by a solar collector.

Solar Energy System: A device or structural design feature, a substantial purpose of which is to provide daylight for interior lighting or provide for the collection, storage and distribution of solar energy for space heating or cooling, electricity generation, or water heating.

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Solar Energy System, Active: A solar energy system whose primary purpose is to harvest energy by transforming solar energy into another form of energy or transferring heat from a collector to another medium using mechanical, electrical, or chemical means.

Solar Energy System, Grid-Intertie: A photovoltaic system that is connected to an electric circuit served by an electric utility.

Solar Energy System, Ground-Mounted: An Active Solar Energy System that is structurally mounted to the ground and is not roof-mounted; may be of any size (small-, medium- or large-scale).

Solar Energy System, Large-Scale: An Active Solar Energy System that occupies more than 40,000 square feet of surface area (equivalent to a rated nameplate capacity of about 250kW DC or greater).

Solar Energy System, Medium-Scale: An Active Solar Energy System that occupies more than 1,750 but less than 40,000 square feet of surface area (equivalent to a rated nameplate capacity of about 10 - 250 kW DC).

Solar Energy System, Off-Grid: A photovoltaic solar energy system in which the circuits energized by the solar energy system are not electrically connected in any way to electric circuits that are served by an electric utility.

Solar Energy System, Passive: A solar energy system that captures solar light or heat without transforming it to another form of energy or transferring the energy via a heat exchanger.

Solar Energy System, Roof-Mounted: An Active Solar Energy System that is structurally mounted to the roof of a building or structure; may be of any size (small-, medium- or large-scale).

Solar Energy System, Small-Scale: An Active Solar Energy System that occupies 1,750 square feet of surface area or less (equivalent to a rated nameplate capacity of about 10 kW DC or less).

Solar Thermal System: An Active Solar Energy System that uses collectors to convert the sun's rays into useful forms of energy for water heating, space heating, or space cooling."

Section 13. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.