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## **Carver Concerned Citizens** Carver, MA

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 21, 2022

## **Carver Town Meeting Articles on industrial** development target solar, battery storage

Moratorium needed to protect groundwater, rural character of the Town says Carver Concerned Citizens

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www.carverconcernedcitizens.org

New industrial-scale solar projects and a proposed battery storage facility in Carver, MA may be put on hold if two citizen petitions get the required two-thirds vote at the Town Meeting on April 12. The citizen petitioned warrant articles will put a hold on "new use of land" for "Large Ground Mounted Solar Voltaic Installations" and "battery storage" while the Town undertakes a planning process to address the impacts on Carver's residents.

Carver has an estimated 19 existing and proposed large ground-mounted solar installations, many with lithium-ion batteries, covering about 650 acres.





AD Makepeace Solar Site on 59 Federal Road in Carver, MA before and after solar installation

The proposed <u>Cranberry Point Energy Storage</u> would be one of the largest lithium-ion energy storage facilities in the world. It is planned for Carver's Craig Street and Fosdick Road neighborhoods off Main Street 400 feet from the nearest home. Carver Concerned Citizens says the lithium-ion batteries pose a risk of fire and explosion that could release toxic chemicals into the groundwater.

"Carver is being targeted by developers for these big projects. We must protect our drinking water wells, unique rural character and quality of life," said spokesperson Mary Dormer. "Enough is enough and that's why we put the articles on the warrant. Voters should come to the Town Meeting on April 12 to vote yes on these articles to protect our water."

Carver is one of seven towns using the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer as its only source of drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1990. "If contamination were to occur, it would pose a significant public health hazard and serious financial burden to the area's residents," according to the federal law. Wells in the northern section of town are already contaminated by the townowned and operated North Carver Landfill, listed under the federal Superfund program.

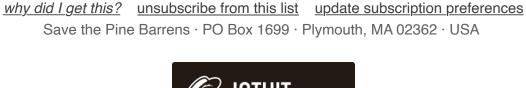
Solar and battery storage moratoriums have been passed or are proposed in other Massachusetts towns to protect neighborhoods and natural resources. In December 2021, voters in the Town of Wendell (MA) adopted a moratorium on "large and extra large" solar in December 2021. On March 14, 2022, the Town of Barnstable voted to ban battery energy storage from all zoning districts in the town and has a moratorium article on the upcoming Town Meeting warrant.

The Carver Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium. Residents who wish to have a say on these warrant articles must be registered to vote and must present at the Town Meeting for the vote. The Planning Board will hold its required public hearing on March 30 or 31 at 7 p.m.

More information at: <u>www.carverconcernedcitizens.org</u>

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