A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 15.2-2229, BY ADOPTING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT RELATED TO UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, Title 67, Section 67-103, Role of Local Governments in Achieving Objectives of the Commonwealth Energy Policy, addresses the regulatory arraignment in the Commonwealth of Virginia as to renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia has enacted statutes that limit the locality's ability to establish ordinances regarding renewable energy facilities by requiring such ordinances to:

1. Be consistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth Energy Policy pursuant to subsection C of §67-102; and
2. Provide reasonable criteria to be addressed in the siting of any renewable energy facility that generates electricity from wind and solar resources. The criteria shall provide for the protection of the locality in a manner consistent with the goals of the Commonwealth to promote the generation of energy from wind and solar resources; and
3. Include provisions establishing reasonable requirements upon the siting of any renewable energy facility, including provisions limiting noise, requiring buffer areas, and setbacks, and addressing the decommissioning of the facility; and

WHEREAS, under Code of Virginia §15.2-2229, from time to time, the Board of Supervisors may amend its Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has seen a need to study the siting and development of Utility-Scale Solar Energy Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission analyzed various studies and data, considered current trends, studied the physical and financial impact to the county, and debated future outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the Commonwealth of Virginia Energy Plan, which encourages the development and use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission developed the following amendment for inclusion in the Growth Management section of the Comprehensive Plan;

> "Appomattox County endeavors to promote the development of renewable energy resources, such as properly sited utility-scale solar energy farms and wind energy facilities. The purpose of such facilities is for the generation of electricity in a clean, efficient, and renewable manner. Each facility should promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the Appomattox County and the Commonwealth of Virginia in an environmentally friendly approach through its design, construction, and eventual decommissioning. These facilities are best sited in areas of the county zoned either A-1, Agricultural, M-1, Industrial, and IP, Planned Industrial and should be reviewed as a conditional use within said district. In conjunction with the underlying

zoning district classification, siting conformity should overlap areas designated by the Future Land Use Map as planned for commercial, industrial and/or primary growth. Areas designated by the Future Land Use Map as rural transition, rural preservation and/or primary conservation are considered to be undesirable for such land use regardless of the underlying zoning district classification.

Several planning factors to deliberate when considering siting such a facility are 1). The scope and scale of the project relative to the character of the surrounding community; 2).The proximity to other electrical power generation facilities; 3). The proximity to population centers; 4). The proximity to the industry/business to be served by the facility; 5). The proximity to other public infrastructure directly impacted in Appomattox County; and 6) The impacts to Cultural and Historical Resources. These factors are not exclusive or limiting, but should be included in the overall deliberation, as part of generally accepted good zoning practices. Any siting of either a utility-scale solar energy farm or a wind energy facility should have a direct, positive impact on the citizens of Appomattox County and should be consistent with the current Commonwealth of Virginia Energy Plan, as well as, the Appomattox County Comprehensive Plan.", and;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission duly advertised and held a public hearing on October 9, 2019 on the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission concludes that the adoption of this Comprehensive Plan amendment will help guide and coordinate the development of renewable energy projects in Appomattox County and best promote the public health, safety, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the citizens of Appomattox County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Appomattox County Planning Commission hereby forwards this proposed amendment to the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors with a recommendation to adopt said amendment related to renewable energy projects, as advertised.

George Almond, Vice- Chairman

Adopted: December 11, 2019

ATTEST:

Johnnie Roark
Clerk, Planning Commission