



PO Box 281  
Lovell, ME 04051

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February 16, 2022

Heinrich Wurm, Chair  
Lovell Planning Board  
Town of Lovell  
1069 Main Street  
Lovell, ME 04051

Chairman Wurm,

My name is David Patterson and I want to take a few minutes to give you some background of how we got here today, and my connection to this beautiful Town. I think it's important to know, so you understand where Our Eden Association and our solar ordinance originated from.

Over fifty years ago my parents scraped all their savings together to build a small family camp that would be a retreat for our family and something to hand down for generations. At the time we lived in Maryland, but my parents had strong ties to Lovell. Dad came here in 1950 when he was a college student. His father brought him here the summer after the sudden death of his mother. Dad and Mom honeymooned just down the street at Severance Lodge. They built the camp the year I was born so I have spent time on Kezar Lake every summer of my life and I now bring my children here.

My family may be "summer folk," but we have always had a love, passion, and a sense of duty to Lovell. My father Robert was involved in many aspects of Lovell, including being a visiting minister for the church and serving as President of the originally named Kezar Lake Association. My two older sisters and I worked several summer jobs at local businesses over the years and I became a member of the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department several decades ago. My sisters moved to Maine when I was young, and when my parents retired, they also moved north. In 2014, I retired from a nearly two-decade long career in law enforcement and moved my family to Maine and now call it home. I give you this background because I want you to understand my family's commitment to maintaining this beautiful Town so that we can hand it down to our kids in the same way my father has to us.

In late November, I became aware of the utility-scale solar project being proposed in our little town. I learned as much as I could and quickly became aware that many Town residents knew little to nothing about it. I started a Facebook group that grew organically to over 300 members in just a few weeks. I also started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to go towards expenditures for mailings, website, and other related costs. Within the next 2-3 weeks, we developed a core group of extremely talented, fully committed, and hard-working people. This included full-time residents and 'summer' folk who immediately stepped up and donated their time and effort to this cause.



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Nine of them, along with myself, now make up the Board of Our Eden. We were able to secure legal counsel with Paul Driscoll and added a consultant, Chris O'Neil to our team. There are times that you need to hire professionals for some projects. I know first aid, but if I need surgery, I see a surgeon. I can build a shed, but if I need a home built, I hire a home builder. Sometimes the project at hand requires experts with more training, knowledge, and experience to be completed correctly and efficiently.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> the solar moratorium was voted on with a nearly 5 to 1 vote in favor. We started a petition drive to put the draft solar ordinance written by our team on the warrant for a Town meeting. Over a period of three days, included a snowstorm, we gathered over 200 signatures. These two events, along with over 330 members on our Facebook group, made it clear that a high percentage of the Lovell Residents want a voice and input into this process and want Our Eden Association to help drive that voice.

The solar ordinance in front of you is the result of numerous hours of review of several solar ordinances from other towns across the country. We wanted to focus more local and found one from Denmark. Their Ordinance was also put in place during their moratorium, and I will let Chris speak to the provenance of the ordinance and address any questions you may have with it. As with any ordinance there may be room for changes down the road, but I feel this is a great starting point. Even the Constitution of The United States was not perfect initially, but the founders needed a place to start and made amendments as needed.

Thank you, again for allowing me to speak and thank you to the Board for your service to our lovely Town. Let's all work together, as a community, and protect it for generations to come. I now turn it over to Chris for further details about the ordinance and to answer any of your questions.

Yours truly,

David Patterson  
David Patterson, President  
Our Eden Association  
A Maine Non-Profit Corporation