

Kurt Swartz, Battery Storage comments,
January 20, 2026, Town Board Meeting.

My purpose this evening is to call attention towards human factors, as Clifton Park does not have expanses of wild west like frontier to place these out-of-sight, out-of-mind storage facilities. Figuratively, they either become in-your-face or in your backyard.

The purchase of a home is often the single largest investment any family will incur in their lifetime. Ask yourself, would you feel safe if one of these battery structures became your next-door-neighbor, or perhaps a neighbor some quarter mile distant? How would these new battery storage neighbors effect homeowner market values? How might individual homeowner insurance policies change once the new neighbors begin their habitation?

Residents are heartened when Town leaders pronounce Clifton Park as having near to the lowest taxation rates of any community in NY. They cherish values of rural and protected open space existing within the western Greenbelt; a dynamic vision statement to land management which supports quality-of-life inspirations.

How then can Clifton Park establish supportable public policy, maintaining agriculture, open space and valuable affiliated land uses, while confronting a conceivable tidal wave of solar project expansion, as we witness in neighboring communities, becomes a rational question. The projects themselves constitute industrialization of broad open spaces we seek to preserve.

A way forward is not rocket science! Sound techniques can be applied to yield unbiased guidance toward responsible planning and siting of solar facilities themselves.

The Ag & farmland protection planning process has already achieved a parallel practicality. Geographic Information Systems analysis, coupling multiple assessment criteria, to a weighted variable schema, discloses priority farmland parcels vital to furthering long term agricultural presence. The outcome yields basic and credible information, critical for any decision process to successfully prevail.

There is a road map should we choose to follow it.

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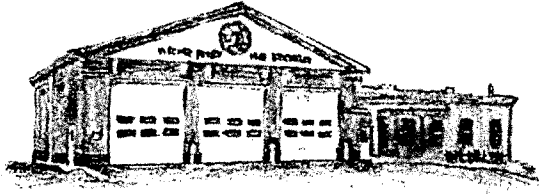
CLIFTON PARK
TOWN CLERK

Vischer Ferry Fire District

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TOWN CLERK

January 15, 2026

Members of the Clifton Park Town Board,

I'm writing to you as I'm out of the country on a mission trip and unable to attend the public hearing to be held on Tuesday 1/20/26, on the proposed extension of the moratorium on battery storage facilities.

I have been a member, officer and currently Chairman of the Board of the Vischer Ferry Fire District for 45 years. Many things have changed over the years but our mission of protecting life and property remains the same.

The Governor has removed all training for firefighters from the state budget in regard to handling battery storage fires. She states that the money isn't there, however at the same time she doled out millions of dollars to public transit corporations to purchase electric buses. How does this even remotely make sense? It's not that the money isn't there, but rather the technology to deal with these incidents does not yet exist. Typical government putting the cart before the horse.

At the present time, the only way to deal with fires at solar/battery storage facilities is to let them burn. That is not anything that I would want in my district, and that does not go along with our mission of protecting life and property.

On January 16, 2025 a fire at the Moss Landing facility in California burned for days. Residents were instructed to stay inside and turn off all ventilation systems. Closer to home June of 2023, a fire at a Warwick, NY location burned for days and only involved 2 battery storage cabinets. Schools and homes had to be evacuated. Just last month on December 15, 2025, another fire in Warwick, NY, became a 3-day incident. Fire crews could only stand by and watch it burn.

There is no doubt that solar energy, tied in with battery storage facilities, will have a place in our future. I would ask that the board continue to wait until those systems are safe and we have the proper techniques to deal with these incidents.

Perhaps those that are in favor of these facilities, would like them on their personal property, perhaps they will apply and join their local fire departments, to deal with these incidents but my guess is probably not.

I would ask this Town Board to continue to deny these facilities in our Town, until such a time that the technology has improved, and we can have a way to safely, and efficiently deal with emergency incidents at these facilities.

Let's not allow Clifton Park to put the cart before the horse.

Firematically Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin K. Bowman'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin K Bowman
Chairman Vischer Ferry Fire District