

[Sign Up](#)

Email or Phone

Password

[Log In](#)[Forgot account?](#)

## Engage North Smithfield!

Public group

[About](#)[Discussion](#)[| Sandy's post](#)[Members](#)[Events](#)[Videos](#)[Photos](#)[Files](#)[Recommendations](#)[Search this group](#)[Join Group](#)[More](#)

Join this group to post and comment.

**Sandy Seoane** shared a link.

May 23



NRINOW.NEWS

### Tree cutting, conservation dominate debate on Gold solar

NORTH SMITHFIELD – While planners admitted that the project is far mor...

4

8 Comments

[Share](#)

**Carol Robinson** This is not a good deal for the Town. Chairman Palardy is right, it will be 80 years before those trees grow back plus the 20 years the solar farm will be there, that's three generations. Also most of the trails we have been enjoying since Mr. Gold opened up his property will be replaced with solar panels. From what I understand the difference between this solar farm and the Iron Mine Hill solar farm is there were other plans to develop that property if the solar was not approved. If this solar farm is not approved I don't think there are other plans to develop the Gold Forest. That is an important difference and I hope the planning board takes that into consideration. Mr. Gold was asking a fair price for his property when the Town almost purchased it a year and a half ago. Let the Town purchase the property like we came so close to doing in 2018 before the current council blew the deal and we can enjoy it now not a hundred years from now. Mr. Gold is a very generous man and I don't blame him for finding another buyer after the town backed out on the agreement but destroying this beautiful piece of property for solar would be a travesty.

--

6w

6

[English \(US\)](#) · [Español](#) ·  
[Português \(Brasil\)](#) · [Français \(France\)](#) ·  
[Deutsch](#)[Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Ad Choices](#) ·  
[Cookies](#) · [More](#)  
Facebook © 2020



**James DiChristoforo** Carol Robinson Aside from the " stories " floated by some, the iron mine property had no definitive plans. That was just a smokescreen put out, by some. This property was a junkyard for years. Many a car were tipped upside down, draining, oil, antifreeze and gas into the ground, as part of removing parts from the bottom of the autos. They didn't drain those fluids out, back in the day, before junking cars. This land would, more than likely, have never been able to pass drinking water standards, for well water, to build houses.

6w

1



**Nancy Salolo** Carol Robinson Well said. People need to pay attention to the fact that it takes GENERATIONS for a forest to mature. It is not easily replaced. Why can't abandoned shopping plazas and parking lots be used for solar fields instead? You're not just ruining a forest, you're destroying a whole ecosystem.

6w

3



**David M Gold** ...the best chance to enjoy the Forest/Park is to SUPPORT the solar / gift project. My understanding ( not fact ) is that the historic Augustus E Field Piggery walls, foundations bridge and stone walls and stream lead into a large clear pasture W/ historic cemetery and trail to a small park above the pasture with fabulous rock formations - "Marilyn's Mount" is the trail head- and with connecting/continuing trails from the pasture and over a flat historic stone walkway onto trails that take you all the way to Tarkiln Reservoir for picnics and scenic Forest Bathing for Townsfolk to enjoy will all be a part of the gift from day one...also to be included is Lake Bel Air and RR bed property that runs from the Lake across Route 7 and extends for a couple of miles to end(+/- 5 Ac)...with Lake Bel Air property's scenic beauty, picnic area, bass fishing along with trails that lead to Route 7 and across Route 7 for hiking/biking with 2-RR Beds add another 15 acres or so to the initial donation. The solar company will best be able to "draw the picture" at the scheduled July 2 online meeting that importantly gifts the balance of the Gold Forest following their intended use to the Town completing the entire forest for future generations. FURTHER, there are 1.3 million cubic yards of gravel in-situ in the Gold Forest that equates to \$5.2 million dollars that I will fight to remove in the next 50-100 years as the Town(s) will not be able to stop forever....following which I will be able to develop the land for even greater financial remuneration and "payback" for the Town's despicable treatment of myself and Family over the last 12 years simply responding to the request to purchase by the Conservation Committee, a good Town Administrator in Robert Lowe and then Town Council President Linda Thibeault in 2008. The latest "go round" was again painful and it's demise perpetrated by current Town Council President Paul Vadenais, self-proclaimed "conservationist" Douglas Osier, Jr and Town Council president Gary Evowski... So, howwere were the Townsfolk's vices then ?!

5w · Edited



**Richard F. Keene** Here are some facts to consider. This property has been David Gold's personal park for decades. He posted No Trespassing signs forbidding access to the public since he owned it. He recently granted the public temporary access to the property. I think it expires at the end of May. Mr. Gold is within his rights to clear cut the entire property or develop house lots. So "we" lose nothing. What does the town stand to gain? First we gain more tax revenues and virtually no demand on town services. Secondly, we gain immediate ownership of 56 acres of valuable open space property that contains significant conservation, recreation and historic value. The frontage on Tarkiln Pond gives the town ownership to only its third waterfront property. The town also gains ownership of the portion of Rankin Brook that runs through the property. It's a major tributary of the Branch River that offers the opportunity for future trout fishing. The developer offers to create a new trail system throughout the 56 acres. It would immediately become the largest recreational area in town connecting six significant historical features. Thirdly, at the end of the project service life (no more than 35 years) the remaining 36 acres revert to town control. The developer must decommission the project but has offered to reforest the property according to a agreed plan. 80 years is a lifetime. But if the town had the vision to make similar decisions years ago, we'd be in a much different situation today. The combined 92 acres will become the largest Recreation, Conservation and Historic Park in town. The town offered to buy the property for \$800,000. We now stand to acquire it for nothing. This project could become the model for all other development plans to follow. I think it's shortsighted to dismiss it out of hand. We should consider this very unique opportunity to preserve a substantial piece of property.

6w

5



**David M Gold** My understanding ( not fact ) is that the historic Augustus E Field Piggery walls, foundations bridge and stone walls and stream lead into a large clear pasture W/ historic cemetery and trail to a small park above the pasture with fabulous rock formations - "Marilyn's Mount" is the trail head- and with connecting/continuing trails from the pasture and over a flat historic stone walkway onto trails that take you all the way to Tarkiln Reservoir for picnics and scenic Forest Bathing for Townsfolk to enjoy will all be a part of the gift from day one...also to be included is Lake Bel Air and RR bed property that runs from the Lake across Route 7 and extends for a couple of miles to end(+/- 5 Ac)...with Lake Bel Air property's scenic beauty, picnic area, bass fishing along with trails that lead to Route 7 and across Route 7 for hiking/biking with 2-RR Beds add another 15 acres or so to the initial donation. The solar company will best be able to "draw the picture" at the scheduled July 2 online meeting that importantly gifts the balance of the Gold Forest following their intended use to the Town completing the entire forest for future generations.

6w - Edited

1



**Cynthia Roberts Anne Powers, FYI**

6w

1