

Article xx: Zoning Amendment – Solar Parking Canopies

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Groton as follows:

1. Amend **Section 218-3 Definitions** by inserting the following definition in alphabetical order:

“SOLAR PARKING CANOPY” — A roof application of a solar photovoltaic array that is installed on top of a supporting structure built on a functional and striped parking surface so as to maintain the function of the area beneath the canopy (also known as "solar carports.")

2. Amend **Section 218—5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations** by inserting the following entry in the Section titled “Business Accessory (use)” after the entry numbered 108 and renumbering subsequent entries accordingly:

USE	R-A ¹⁰	R-B ¹⁰	NB	VCB ¹⁰	GB	I	P ¹⁰	O
“80 Solar Parking Canopy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y”

3. Amend **Section 218-5.3 Accessory Uses** by inserting a new **Section 218-5.3.E. Solar Parking Canopy** to read as follows:

“**Section 218-5.3.E. Solar Parking Canopies**

- (1) Solar Parking Canopies in the R-A District shall meet setback requirements for Accessory Structures.
- (2) Solar Parking Canopies and Surface-integrated Solar Energy Systems in non-R-A Districts shall be allowed where parking is permitted in accordance with the requirements defined in Section 218-8.1, Off-Street Parking and Loading. The requirements for the planting of trees in landscaped strips within the parking area as defined in Section 218-8.1.C.(7) Parking Lot Planting may be met elsewhere on the lot. Landscaping for parking lots located under a canopy shall be designed to manage runoff from the panels and to be shade tolerant.
- (3) Solar Parking Canopies in the no R-A District shall be subject to Section 218-2.5 Site Plan Review.
- (4) Solar Parking Canopies shall not exceed seventeen (17) feet in height from grade.”

4. Amend **Section 218-2.5 Site Plan Review** by inserting the following entry under Section 518-2.5.C.(2) Threshold of Review / Major to read as follows:

“(e) Solar Parking Canopy”

Planning Board

Summary: *The purpose of this Zoning Bylaw amendment is to allow for the installation of solar parking canopies in areas where off-street parking is provided.*