



## TOWN OF MINTO

**DATE:** April 5, 2018  
**REPORT TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Site Plan Solar Installation Greenbush

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### STRATEGIC PLAN:

10.11 In partnership with private business host solar power initiatives on Town land that encourage local investment keeping in mind community impacts, and Provincial policy. Support on a case by case basis investment in solar energy on private lands where compatible with community interests are addressed.

### BACKGROUND

In March 7, 2017 Council approved an Equipment Lease Agreement with SunSaver 2 for FIT 4.0 solar installations for the following sites:

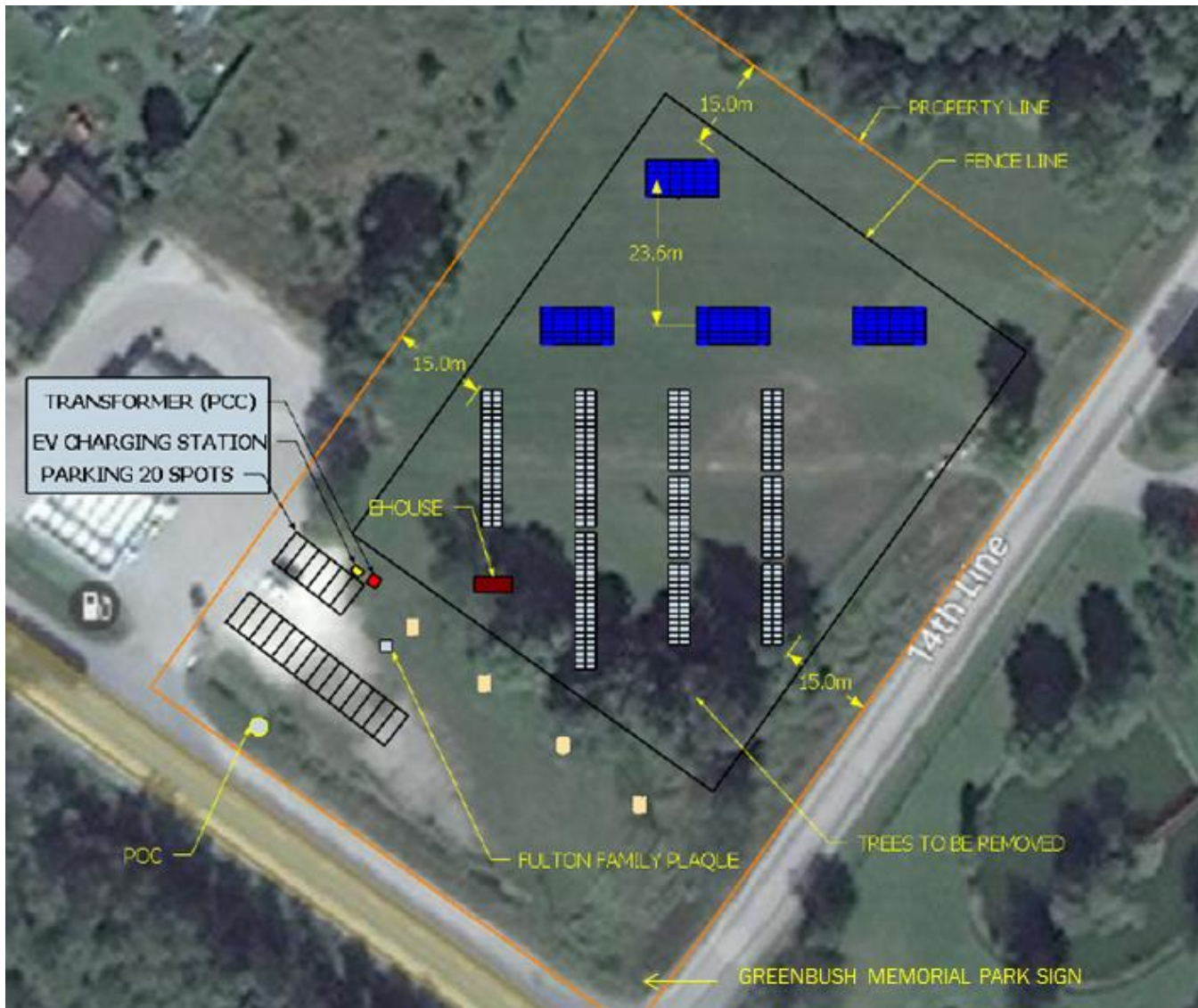
1) Town Municipal Office	5941 Highway 89	50kW	Roof Top Unit
2) Clifford Arena	2 Brown Street South	100 kW	Roof Top Unit
3) Clifford Sewage Treatment Plant	43 James Street East	250 kW	Ground Mount
4) Greenbush Community Park	5576 Highway 9	100 kW	Ground Mount
5) Harriston Arena	111 George Street South	250kW	Roof Top Unit
6) Harriston Industrial Sewage Plant	83 William Street West	250 kW	Ground Mount
7) Palmerston Arena	520 Caven Street	250kW	Roof Top Unit
8) Palmerston Road Works and Industrial Stormwater pond	Minto Road	250 kW	Ground Mount

Last meeting Council approved providing property coverage the solar installations through JLT. Council was advised that rooftop units are installed and generating power at the Minto Municipal Office Public Works Shed, and are also installed at the Clifford, Harriston and Palmerston Arena. These sites will be fully commissioned shortly.

SunSaver has now started the process to construct ground mount solar panels at the Greenbush location. One of the requirements of this process is the company provide notice to landowners. The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the proposed layout. The Greenbush property was formerly a softball field and is on lands donated in the 1950's by the Fulton Family to the Township of Minto for recreation purposes. According to the History of Minto Township there has not been organized softball on the field since the mid 1970's. Over the years there has been little maintenance of the land although some of the fencing still remains. Trees on the property are overgrown and some have fallen.

In September 2016 the Town received an offer under FIT 4.0 to place ground mount solar panels on the property. Bill Fulton contacted the C.A.O. Clerk to remind the Town that the family had donated the lands for recreation purposes. He advised there are still Fulton Family members in the area and he asked how the Town would honour the terms of the land

transfer from the 1950's. Since that time the C.A.O. Clerk had been emailing concepts and proposal with Mr. Fulton. He has agreed that cleaning the property up and installing solar panels is appropriate, and agreed to a proposal that the Town dedicate \$1,200 of the proceeds from hosting the panels on the lands to Minto Recreation in memory of the Fulton Family. A plaque would also be placed outlining the history of the property. Mr. Fulton also asked that a sign be placed re-establishing the name Greenbush Memorial Park. The site plan below shows the proposed site development. The site plan below and plaque design have been emailed to Mr. Fulton.



In addition to the plaque and sign, SunSaver proposes to install an EV charging station at their cost and improve the parking area as shown. Some picnic tables would be placed. The plan calls for removal of the larger scrub trees in the area shown which will be replaced on-site at an approximate 2:1 ratio. SunSaver proposes to replant larger size trees rather than just saplings. The exact location of the sign is subject to MTO approval and may change.

The following shows the proposed plaque wording recognizing the Fulton Family. It would be installed using the standard Minto format and referenced on the Treasures of Minto website.

#### Greenbush Memorial Park

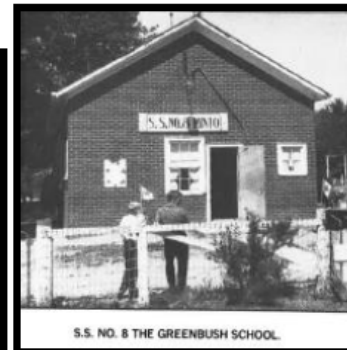
James Fulton came to Minto Township in 1856 from Scotland and his brother John arrived soon after. In 1860 John's sons George and William were sent out to locate property for the family homestead. This was a time when roads were trails and railways had not yet arrived. The Fulton boys were working in dense bush, swamp and poor land so by 1861 only 12 acres of bush had been cleared in the area of the 12<sup>th</sup> concession.

In 1865 George Fulton in partnership with William Lyons built a steam-powered sawmill on this site. This was good for local farming as a place to process logs cleared from area farms and in 1871 with the arrival of the railway a station was built not far from this site within the 12<sup>th</sup> concession. Fulton Mills station shipped lumber and tanbark to Clifford and Harriston from the mill. The station closed in 1947.

George's son Elliot took over in 1897 growing the business into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A district school was built on the corner of the site taking its name Greenbush School from the heavy tree cover in the area. For years Greenbush was an active community with a post office, Fulton Station, Greenbush School and soon competing lumber and farming interests.

In 1951 the Fulton Brothers offered to donate the three acres at the corner to the Township as a recreation area on the condition that no Sunday games would be played on the field so Greenbush Community Park was formed. Games were played at the park for years although the History of Minto Township reported in 1978 the lands were dutifully maintained by the municipality although there are "no facilities for games, Sunday, Monday or otherwise".

The lands were naturalized by the Town of Minto post amalgamation in 1999. Various ideas were floated about selling or redeveloping the lands. A gas station was built nearby, but it was not until 2016 when the Town of Minto received approval for solar panel installation under a Provincial Feed in Tariff program. Descendants of the Fulton Family reminded the Town of the history of the property supported its re-activation as an environmental park. The Town hosts the solar panel installations and dedicates the revenue toward youth recreation in Minto, a lasting legacy for the Fulton Family.



#### COMMENTS

Staff is generally pleased with the proposed layout and appreciates the cooperation of the Fulton Family. Celebrating the history of the property and recognizing the Fulton Family while allowing for the "green energy solution" makes much better use of the lands. The Town and SunSaver will negotiate the terms of site maintenance including grass cutting and so forth. Generally SunSaver is responsible for all work within the fenced area of the panels, but will have added maintenance obligations if the vehicle charging station is installed, particularly snow removal. The Town will provide and maintain the plaque and picnic tables.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Town is projected to earn over \$31,000 per year from the eight FIT installations when complete. The \$1,200 donation to Minto Recreation in the Fulton Family name will have to be accommodated through internal transfers. The plaque recognizes this donation.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the CAO Clerk's April 5, 2018 report Site Plan Solar Installation Greenbush.

Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk