

Lyme Planning Board Minutes
10/26/2023

Board Members and Staff Present: Tim Cook, Vice Chair; David Kahn, Select Board Representative; Rich Menge, Member; Rich Brown, Alternate; Hebe Quinton, Alternate; Nat Niles, Alternate; David Robbins, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Members Via Zoom: John Stadler, Chair;
Board Members Absent: Vicki Smith, Member;

Members of the Public Present: Mark Bolinger

Item 1: Acceptance of minutes from 10/12/2023

Rich Menge moved to approve the minutes as submitted.

Tim Cook seconded the motion.

John Stadler called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

David Kahn and Rich Brown abstained as they did not attend the meeting.

Item 2: Survey results.

The Board discussed the results of the survey. Based on those results the Board had the following discussions:

Hebe Quinton produced a summary of the 344 survey results (incorporation both online entries and those typed by board members from the paper responses.)

Solar arrays covering an area of up to 7 acres may be sited in the Large Solar District.

The Board received 14 paper responses after the deadline. Hebe Quinton volunteered to enter them into the online survey, then produce a new summary. The Board did not feel that these new additions would change the results, and that residents would feel their thoughts were heard.

This District comprises the area along Rt.10, bounded on the north by the Lyme Common Zoning District and to the south by the border with Hanover. Solar arrays must be located within an (undetermined) distance as measured from the borders of Rt. 10 on either side.

Discouragement of clear cutting. (Need to work out details and ask Town Counsel for legal input) One discussed approach: An area of trees comprising (undetermined) acres or more that has been cleared within the last 5 years shall not qualify for a large solar array. However, up to an area of (undetermined) shall be exempted from that calculation.

Projects primarily serving Lyme residents & businesses. (Need to work out details & obtain legal input).

One discussed approach - at least a percentage to be determined, of power produced from any large SES in the Large Solar District must be credited to or be directly supplied to Lyme residents or businesses in order for approval to be granted.

All Large Arrays shall be well screened. Further details need to be worked out.

Questions still under consideration:

Confirm viability. See maps David Robbins generated earlier.

Should the Amendment be split into 2 Amendments; one for small & medium and another for large?

Due to time constraints, the Board added a meeting on November 2nd at 7:00pm in the Town offices conference room to work on the amendment.

Item 3) New business.

Rich Menge brought up creating a bike / pedestrian path from Lyme to connect with the proposed bike corridor along VT RT 5. The Board suggested that Mr. Menge write a letter for the Planning Board to review, to go to the Select Board supporting the Vermont Agency of Transportation's proposed corridor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Robbins

Lyme Planning and Zoning Administrator.