

Approved Minutes

Lyme Energy Committee meeting Sept 28, 2015

Present: Sue MacKenzie, Matt Brown, Mark Bolinger, Robin Taylor, Scott Nichols, Mike Novello, Dan O'Hara

Absent: Joanna Jaspersohn

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:37

1. The minutes of our June 15 meeting were approved as circulated. Action: Dan to send to town
2. Matt reported on the situation at the Academy Building. Per Don Elder, the make-up air for the furnace has been resolved and he will replace the missing insulation material over the trap door. Action: none required at this time.
3. The Budget for next year was discussed - it is just enough to cover a mailing should that be necessary. We decided to submit the same budget for next year. Action - Mark to submit budget.
4. Mark went to the Planning Board meeting to discuss how ground-mounted solar systems should be handled. At present there are no rules in place on how to handle these, and although there have been no major controversies here in Lyme there are several going on in the area and it is very likely that some may come up here. Among the issues are should such systems be allowed on agricultural soils? What if a group of homeowners that do not have suitable roofs want to pool their resources and cooperatively own a large system that would power all their homes so they could enjoy the benefits of net metering and share the tax advantages? It was agreed that there is a lot more to do on this - Mark will remain engaged with the planning board and stay abreast of the controversies going on in Vermont. Mike will see if there are any planned regulations for New Hampshire. Action - discuss this next meeting as things develop and provide whatever guidance we can to the Planning Board.
5. The bids for the system to go on the town hall were discussed - it seems that the payback period is still too long (because of the possible inability to net meter and the fact that tax incentives do not apply) for us to come up with an attractive proposal that would have a good chance at Town Meeting. It may be better to enlarge the system on the school. Regarding the school PV system, it is notable that the DC wires from the array to the inverter were chafed inside the conduit where it turns down at the edge of the roof (discovered and temporarily repaired by Kim Frase Electric while he was here to provide a quote on the town hall system). It is unclear whether this problem was related to the construction of the addition or normal "wear and tear", but what is clear is that it should be permanently repaired. Action - Discuss further next meeting.
6. Mark had the committee vote on the attractiveness and acceptability of two alternative solar panel designs on metal roofs similar to that on the town hall. We all ended up voting for the panels with silver rather than black frames.

7. The need for a better ventilation system for the town highway garage and fire station was discussed. We all agreed to research this on the internet to see if a reasonable solution can be found. Action - discuss next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42. Next meeting is November 16 at 7:30.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan O'Hara