

Approved minutes

May 14, 2018 Lyme Energy Committee meeting

Present: Mark, Kevin, Scott, Dan, Matt, Jim

- 1) Mark called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
- 2) The minutes from our previous meeting were approved as circulated. Mark will send in to town to post.
- 3) Mark and Jim provided an update on the Weatherize Upper Valley program, which is winding down. As of early May, among the Orford/Piermont/Lyme team, there had been 126 audits requested, 99 audits scheduled, 41 audit reports delivered, 19 contracts signed (13 in Lyme), and 1 project completed. 64% of those requesting audits qualify for NHSaves rebates. We expect the number of contracts signed to increase by the end of May, which is the deadline to qualify for a \$500 prize drawing from Vital Communities. Kevin wondered whether we could encourage more Lyme households to participate (e.g., through testimonials or case studies of energy saved). Because the savings won't be felt until next winter, and because we've seemingly reached a temporary market saturation point, we agreed to revisit in roughly a year to see whether there is any appetite for a "round two" of this type of program.
- 4) Jim presented highlights from the Upper Valley Energy Roundtable, which he attended last week. The theme was helping those who shoulder a high energy burden, and there were a number of speakers on that topic. In addition, a handful of towns with active energy programs provided updates on what they've been doing. Example projects include LED street lighting, community solar, campaigning for and passing 100% renewable energy goals, and creating energy dashboards on their web sites. Jim agreed to investigate the dashboard concept for possible adoption in Lyme, and we also agreed to soon return to the streetlight question in Lyme (ideally eliminating more lights, and converting the rest to LEDs).
- 5) This summer, the Lyme School will be replacing the roof on which the PV system sits, and asked for our input on what options they have, in terms of re-installing, expanding, or replacing. Mark reported that the existing system could be expanded from ~15 kW up to 35 kW without losing its grandfathered net metering status. However, if just expanding the system, the new capacity would not be eligible for a PUC rebate. But if the old system was completely removed and a new system (of up to 35 kW) was installed, that entire new system might be eligible for a PUC rebate. Scott will call the PUC to ask about this. If a new system would, in fact, qualify for a PUC rebate, then that might ultimately be the most economical approach, given that it would avoid the expense of re-installing the existing system and the cost of replacing the existing inverter (which is likely to fail in the coming years). Mark will e-mail Mike Beck and Jeff Valence with some options, and thoughts on those options, to see how they want to proceed.
- 6) We briefly discussed the energy chapter of the Lyme Master Plan (which the Planning Board has asked us to revise), and also a new model zoning ordinance for solar that has been recently released by NHSEA. Given that we have some time to work on the master plan update (per Kevin's input), and that discussions surrounding it and the model zoning ordinance will take a significant amount of time, we agreed to table this discussion until our next meeting. In the interim, all members should read (and mark up as necessary) the energy chapter AND the model zoning ordinance, and be ready to discuss at our next meeting.
- 7) The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2018 at 7:30 PM. But if the school solar project requires a meeting before then, we will schedule one.