

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Committee and public access at UberConference [888-919-7047 or 603-506-6463].

1. Jim announced that this telephonic meeting complies with the Governor's Order #12.
2. Roll call taken of members present: Mark Bolinger, Jim Nourse, Matt Brown, Dan O'Hara, Kevin Sahr

Members of the public joining: none

3. Approved the minutes of our August 10, 2020 meeting. Matt moved; Dan seconds. Motion unanimously approved by roll call (but Kevin abstains, as he missed the August 10 meeting).
4. Update on Town Highway garage: Jim noted that current Town Master Plan calls for incorporating renewable and sustainable energy whenever there are significant renovations of town buildings. Kevin suggested that Jim make the Select Board aware of this text within the Master Plan (Jim will send this text to Dina to distribute to Select Board – [Update: Jim's email is appended to the end of these minutes]). Pellet boiler and propane bids were due on Monday, and will be opened in public during the 9/24 Select Board meeting. Kevin will ask Dina to copy the bids and send to Jim to distribute to the Committee. There will most likely be a week or two in which to study the bids and go back to the bidders with any questions before deciding. There is actually no formal budget to execute this work in 2020, but if there is money left over towards the end of the year (e.g., in December) it could be used for this purpose. Otherwise, the required funds will be raised as part of 2021's budget, which most likely means that the current pellet boilers would be used for one more winter.

Dan would like the Select Board to take into consideration fuel price volatility and the risk of fuel price escalation, as well as keeping the fuel expenditures local (pellets more local than propane). Kevin has shared the Energy Information Administration's propane cost projection—which projects a significant price increase in future years—with the Select Board (but did not have a comparable projection of pellet prices).

Kevin noted the pressure on the Select Board to maintain a flat Town budget, and that if it turns out that pellet boiler bids are more expensive than propane boiler bids, then the Committee might consider fundraising to make up the difference. Matt, who was involved with fundraising for the original/current pellet boilers, is interested in taking on this role should it be needed.

5. Climate Change Pamphlet: Jim will send an announcement to the listserv regarding a Q&A primer on climate change, jointly published by the National Academy of Sciences

and the Royal Society. The Lyme library has copies to borrow, or an electronic version can be downloaded from https://www.nap.edu/login.php?record_id=25733 (choose the “guest” option to avoid having to create a free account).

6. Discussion of municipal membership in CleanEnergy NH: We postponed discussion and a decision on this topic, as neither Mike nor Scott (who are business members) were on hand to provide insight into the likely value of municipal membership. We will attempt to revisit this topic at our next meeting.
7. Update on NHSaves and weatherization: The Committee is co-sponsoring a virtual Button Up workshop on October 6 from 7-8:30 PM. This event is being widely advertised throughout town via multiple modes of media. It is a prelude to a mini-weatherization push, spurred in part by the possibility of higher incentives. Funding left over from Weatherize Upper Valley will be available to pay the \$100 cost of qualifying audits. Jim is in discussion with the Pearl Dimick Fund to try to reach recipients of fuel assistance, and will also approach the Lyme School about possibly broadcasting the Button Up webinar on a screen in the cafeteria for residents who do not have sufficient computer or internet access.
8. Update on Town Office PV system performance, as well as the status and cost of PV deployment in Lyme: Mark distributed a written update in advance of the meeting, and answered several questions during the meeting.
9. Town Master Plan, Energy Section—Next Steps: Jim asked members to review the Energy chapter of the Master Plan (which he distributed electronically after the meeting) and to volunteer (via email to Jim, who will coordinate) to update at least one of the five data sections, and to think about recommendations (the 6th section). For recommendations, think about which to keep, which to delete, which to edit, and whether there should be any new recommendations.
10. Lyme Energy Committee website: Jim asked all members to review our website and think about what to get rid of, what to add, etc. Send all thoughts to Jim via email.
11. Adjournment. Dan moves; Matt seconds. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bolinger, Secretary

Jim Nourse <jim.nourse@gmail.com> Wed, Sep 23, 8:38 PM (7 days ago)

to Dina

Hi, Dina:

I'm hoping that you can forward this from the Energy Committee to the Select Board in time for the Board meeting tomorrow and their discussion of the highway garage heating system.

Many thanks,
Jim

Dear Select Board:

At last night's Energy Committee meeting, the Committee asked me to reiterate our strong support for choosing a pellet boiler option for the Highway Garage. We would ask that you consider the following factors in making your decision:

1. In the Energy Section of the current Town Master Plan, the first Recommendation listed is as follows: *The Town should maintain its commitment to sustainability and energy-savings in the operation of its public buildings, exterior lighting and vehicle fleet management. When town buildings undergo significant renovations, efforts should be made to complete those renovations with energy conserving products and techniques, including the installation of renewable energy producing products. A leadership role at the town level can encourage further adoption amongst the public.*

2. Warrant Article 22, which passed with strong support in March, 2020, states: *To see if the Town of Lyme will vote to commit to a goal of 100% reliance on clean, renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and clean, renewable sources for all other energy needs, including for heating and transportation, by 2050.*

The impetus for this goal is to reduce energy costs to the community and to keep energy dollars in the local economy; to reduce the risks to the community of escalation and volatility in energy costs; and to address the threat of global climate change.

The intent of this article is to influence policy at the local level in a fiscally responsible manner that will support and encourage individual action to shift towards 100% clean, renewable energy.

This article is recommended by the Energy Committee, 7-0; recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.

3. Should the cost of installing a pellet boiler exceed that of a propane boiler, the Energy Committee is willing to take the lead in exploring private fund-raising to make up the difference.

For the Committee,
Jim Nourse, Chair