

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Committee access was via Zoom, and public access was via an associated phone number that had been properly warned by Dina.

1. Jim announced that this telephonic meeting complies with the Governor's Order #12.
2. Members present: Mark Bolinger, Jim Nourse, Matt Brown, Mike Novello, Harry Higgs, Dan O'Hara, Scott Nichols. Rich Menge (member of the public) also attended.
3. Approved the minutes of our December 14, 2020 meeting. Matt moved, Dan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Update on Energy Committee website: Last meeting we discussed adopting Norwich (VT) Energy Committee model, whereby the official business is conducted on a Town website, but the Energy Committee has a second website (on Weebly) where they do most of their education and unofficial work. Jim emailed the Select Board to get their input on Lyme adopting this model; he has not heard back. David Robbins no longer updates the Town website; Jordan Tolland now has that responsibility. Jim proposed to wait until he hears back from the Select Board before moving forward.
5. Update on Community Power: Henry Herndon has left Clean Energy New Hampshire and is working for a new organization (Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire) focusing solely on community power. He is looking for input how this organization can help Upper Valley communities. Two dates proposed for an initial scoping call are Thursday, January 14 from 6-7 PM or Tuesday, January 19 from 6-7 – Jim will let us know which date is chosen, and those who can attend should feel free to do so.
6. Energy Chapter of Town Master Plan: There was some discussion of possibly including updated census data once it becomes available, as the existing chapter contains many of these types of statistics. We already have drafts of several sections of the chapter (e.g., intro, electric sector, transportation sector...) and Jim volunteered to take a stab at stitching them all together. Jim raised the question of how to "enforce" the recommendations of the Master Plan (or the Town vote on the 100% renewable energy warrant article), particularly if the Select Board is not heavily involved in every infrastructure project (e.g., the fire station largely proceeded without Select Board oversight). One potential course of action discussed was to make a motion at Town Meeting to force the Select Board to abide by the warrant article and master plan recommendations.
7. Lyme Energy Fund: Continued discussion over Harry's revised draft proposal for a Lyme Energy Fund. The sense of the Committee was that Jim and/or Harry should set up a meeting with members of the Lyme Foundation to discuss next steps.

8. Strategic Plan: Most of us have added our votes for high-priority projects; Jim will go through and collate the list and send it out for future discussion.
9. NH 3-year energy efficiency plan: The utilities proposed a 3-year plan with increased efficiency spending, but lawmakers have held it up out of concern for imposing additional costs on ratepayers and businesses at this time, given that many are already struggling due to COVID. Jim asked whether the Committee should draft a letter in support of passing the plan. It was decided that Jim would get back to James Graham (who raised this issue on behalf of 350.org) to ask him (or 350.org) to draft a letter that Energy Committee members can sign onto if they like.
10. New Business: Rich Menge (member of public) brought up the highway garage boiler, and asked whether the Select Board looked at life cycle costs before selecting propane? Matt provided some insight into the decision-making process and the thoughts of various Select Board members.
11. Adjournment: Matt moved; Scott seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Bolinger, Secretary