

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm (started late due to Zoom problems). 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, David Kahn.
3. Approved the minutes of our January 11, 2021 meeting. Dan moved, Mike seconded. Motion approved unanimously, with David abstaining due to not being present at our last meeting.
4. Update on Energy Committee website: Jim has been pursuing the idea of a second website that we could update ourselves in a timely fashion, without having to bother Town staff. This is where we would house educational materials; all "official" content (like minutes) would still go on the Energy Committee page of the Town website. Town officials and staff have seemed a bit reluctant to have us go this "two websites" route, but Jim has been unable to get a definitive answer from the Select Board. He will try one more time.
5. Update on Lyme Energy Fund: Jim and Harry had a positive conversation with James Graham and Martha Tecca of the Lyme Foundation about setting up a Lyme Energy Fund. James/Martha suggested that the Lyme Foundation could act as our fiduciary agent, much as they do for the Pearl Dimick fund (which has its own funding, separate from the Lyme Foundation funds). Jim will talk with Jen Schiffman (the Lyme Foundation representative to the Pearl Dimick fund) later this week to get her input. James Graham offered to raise this idea at the Lyme Foundation's next meeting.
6. Update on Lyme Town Report: Jim submitted the Energy Committee's contribution to the Town report.
7. Advocacy: Jim raised the question of whether the Committee should engage in advocacy/lobbying, in light of our "charge" from the Town, which allows us to engage in statewide dialogues involving public policy. David posed the question of whether the Committee can represent the Town on legislative matters at the state level? He will raise this question at the next Select Board meeting.

Jim noted two current issues that the Committee could potentially weigh in on: HB 315 could negatively affect NH's community power law, and the PUC has yet to approve the negotiated triennial energy efficiency plan.

8. Strategic Plan: We looked through the distilled list for 2021, with various members speaking up in favor of different elements. Jim noted the “energy aggregation” item—in order to even explore this, the Select Board would apparently first need to approve the formation of a committee to investigate further. Jim noted that NH is an “opt out” state in terms of aggregation, which means that if we eventually go down this route, everyone in town will initially be included (unless they opt out). Jim will come back with more info at next meeting.
9. Energy Chapter of Town Master Plan: There was some discussion about the audience for this chapter (e.g., the Planning Board), and whether the current outline is properly targeting that audience (no concrete examples provided—Committee members should bring forth ideas for improvement if they have them).
10. Adjournment: Matt moved; Harry seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bolinger, Secretary