

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Committee access was both in person at the Town Office building and via Zoom, and public access was either in person at the Town Office or via an associated phone number that had been properly warned.

1. Jim announced that this hybrid in-person and telephonic meeting complies with the Governor's Order #12.
2. **Members present:** Jim Nourse, Mark Bolinger, David Kahn, Harry Higgs, Mike Novello.
3. **Approved the minutes of our May 10, 2021 meeting.** Harry moved, Jim seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.
4. **Planning Board approval of Master Plan energy chapter:** Mark recounted highlights from the solar-focused discussion that occurred at the Planning Board's September 9 meeting (at which the Planning Board approved the energy chapter of the Town's master plan). In line with the energy chapter's recommendations and the mandate from the Town via the adoption of the 100% renewable energy goal, the Planning Board is looking for ways to be more accommodative to solar in particular (while still maintaining adequate controls), and is initially focusing on residential solar (rather than commercial) as the presumed easiest sector to tackle. Residential roof-mounted solar is largely straightforward, as it typically adheres to existing rooflines, but ground-mounted solar raises various issues, including setbacks, lot-coverage limitations, wetlands, steep slopes, agricultural soils, viewsheds, and others. One Planning Board member expressed a goal of enabling anyone who wants to "go solar" to install a system that will meet up to 100% of annual electricity consumption. This triggered discussion of the difficulties in measuring 100%, as well as how 100% can vary widely from one home to the next, and also over time (as more and more household energy usage becomes electrified—e.g., via electric heat pumps, electric cars, induction cooking, etc.). The Planning Board will continue to hold "solar working sessions" at upcoming meetings (they meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7 PM), and would appreciate ongoing engagement and involvement in those sessions from Energy Committee representatives. Mark will send out a notification/reminder in advance of the Planning Board's next meeting on September 23.
5. **Fire Station PV system:** Jim summarized conversations with Fire Chief Mundy and a potential donor for a PV system on the new Fire Station. The donor is potentially on board to fund the entire cost of the system, but would prefer to see a few other donors chip in as well. The Committee discussed who would actually own the system—the donor or the Town—and the implications of ownership for things like renewable energy credits (RECs), as well as whether this would need to be voted on at Town Meeting (or, more generally, how involved the Town would need to be if there is no Town money involved). Jim made a motion to "take the next steps" by soliciting an indicative cost

estimate from a solar installer, which will allow him to (A) provide the donor with a ballpark estimate of total cost and (B) hopefully clarify the donor's intent in terms of how much of that cost the donor is willing to cover and what the donor's desires or intentions are in terms of system ownership versus a mere donation of dollars. Mike seconded the motion, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor.

6. **Other upcoming projects:** Our two most-pressing near-term projects include working with the Planning Board on solar regulations and implementing the Fire House PV project. Beyond these two, Jim raised the possibility of pursuing community electricity aggregation by taking steps to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. There was discussion about the merits of this approach; Jim will get in touch with Henry Herndon at the Coalition to clarify some things (e.g., what generation projects the power would be coming from, likely cost, etc.) and will report back at our next meeting.
7. **Sustainable Lyme:** Jim has set up a beta website and solicited feedback on content and design. He is hoping to poll Lyme residents in the near future regarding their willingness to participate in "Sustainable Lyme"-sponsored activities.
8. **Energy Committee membership:** Related to Sustainable Lyme, Jim asked all current Energy Committee members to send him an email regarding whether or not they intend to remain on the Committee, and if not, whether they might still be willing to participate in Sustainable Lyme.
9. **Adjournment:** Mike moved; Harry seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Our next meeting as an official committee will be Monday, October 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bolinger, Secretary