

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Meeting was in person, along with access via Zoom.

1. **Members present:** Jim Nourse, Mark Bolinger, Harry Higgs, Mike Novello, David Kahn, Matt Brown (Matt via Zoom)
2. **Approved the minutes of our July 21, 2022 meeting.** Harry moved, Jim seconded. Unanimous approval, with David abstaining due to having missed the July 21 meeting.
3. **Fire Station PV system:** The possibility of radio frequency interference (RFI) from the planned PV array came up during the optional site visit for interested respondents on August 23. This has prompted a lot of research by, and many discussions among, Mark, Jim, and Lyme Fire Chief Aaron Rich. The bottom line is that the antennas on the tower that is attached to the back of the fire station are critical to communications among emergency responders in Lyme, and are also relied upon by other towns (e.g., one of Hanover's antennas is on Lyme's tower). Installing a PV array on the fire station roof may or may not cause RFI—e.g., Lebanon has had RFI problems, but Hanover has not noticed any, despite both towns having PV arrays installed in close proximity to antennae. There are some proactive system design choices and installation practices that can potentially mitigate the issue, but in the end, there is seemingly no way to know for sure in advance of installation if a problem will crop up. As such, unless we receive a proposal from an installer that is willing to guarantee that we won't have an RFI problem, it will be difficult or impossible to proceed with this project.

We received 4 proposals, and they will be opened publicly at the Select Board meeting on September 15. We will review the proposals to see what measures installers have recommended to mitigate or eliminate the possibility of RFI, and will decide how to proceed after that review.

In the meantime, we have started thinking about "Plan B" and discussed several options, including asking donors for approval to refocus our efforts on some other location, like the library, the town garage building, or possibly even undeveloped town-owned property. To do's from this discussion include the following:

- (A) Jim will review all undeveloped town-owned property to assess, at a high level, suitability for ground-mounted solar.
- (B) Mike will check with Eversource about load and metering requirements with respect to group net metering (e.g., can we group net meter a ground-mounted system that is not tied into a "real" municipal load?).
- (C) Mark will assess the highway garage roof in terms of solar potential—e.g., how much efficiency would we give up by installing PV on the east- or west-facing roofs of the highway garage instead of on the south-facing roof of the fire station?

We may need to call a meeting during the week of September 19 to discuss the proposals and decide on next steps.

4. **Aggregation/community power:** The Select Board has approved the formation of the Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee, which currently has two members (Jim Nourse and James Graham). Jim would welcome additional members, but also thinks that he and James can carry on with just the two of them if need be. The Committee will research where things stand with aggregation in NH and will bring a recommendation back to the Select Board. Joining an aggregation would require a vote at Town Meeting in March. This would be an opt-out program, which means that everyone in Lyme would be automatically enrolled, but could opt out if they want to (presumably with no penalty). This is only for the supply/generation portion of electricity service; Eversource and NHEC would continue to handle the transmission and distribution portions.
5. **Other:** Harry volunteered to research and write up a summary of the relevant energy-related provisions (e.g., incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy, tax credit extensions, etc.) within the recently passed *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*, and then to distribute it as educational material via the listserv.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is October 10, but Jim will not be here that day so we may try to move it to October 17. As mentioned above, we may call an interim meeting during the week of September 19 to discuss the RFP response and next steps.

6. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. David motioned, Harry seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bolinger, Secretary