

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Meeting was in person, along with access via Zoom.

1. **Members present:** Jim Nourse, Mark Bolinger, Harry Higgs, Richard Trefren
2. **Approved minutes** from April 27, 2023 meeting (Richard moved, Jim seconded, unanimous vote).
3. **Update on library solar project.** We had thought the contract with Catamount would be signed by the Select Board at their May 4 meeting, but that did not happen, as the Select Board requested one additional change. So...this project is still largely on hold until we can get a contract in place.
4. **Next steps with fund balance.** We moved on to a free-ranging discussion of how to put the remaining donation balance (i.e., what is left over after the library PV project is completed) to good use. See attached summary (compiled by Jim) of the various options that we discussed. Jim requested that all committee members review his writeup and let him know which of these projects they'd like to prioritize and work on. We will discuss this again at our next meeting.
5. **Letter to donors.** We discussed when to be back in touch with donors regarding an update on the library project and a request to rededicate any remaining funds to future projects. We decided to wait a little longer—e.g., until we actually have a signed contract with Catamount, and possibly even until we know the final cost of the library project (given the possibility of additional costs if Eversource requires upgrades to enable interconnection).
6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm. Harry moved, Richard seconded,

Next meeting: Monday, June 12 @ 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Bolinger, Secretary

(see attachment from Jim, starting on next page)

Summary: Discussion of Future Projects, May 8, 2023 (compiled by Jim, to be attached to our meeting minutes)

Present: Mark, Harry, Jim, Richard

### General

1. Our first priority should be to seek ways to spend the balance from the Fire Station/Converse Library funds, which may be in the vicinity of \$45,000, sooner rather than later.
2. We will need to have committee members sign on to lead whatever projects we choose; we hope to fill in the working committees for a project with community volunteers.
3. When planning educational/informational public meetings, we should keep in mind that some folks will benefit most from a “basic information” session, while others in town will be more interested in focusing on more “advanced” concepts.
4. Richard raised an essential question when he asked what our plan was for reaching the 2030 goal of 100% reliance on clean renewable electricity. What we have is the Energy chapter in the Lyme master Plan, which we updated in May, 2021. We have made some progress, including LED lights to the Town Garage, PV on the town office building and soon the library, Solarize and Weatherize Lyme initiatives for residences, and the establishment of the Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee to pursue community power through the Community Power Coalition of NH. What we do not have is a clear accounting for the actual progress those initiatives have made toward a 100% reliance goal, nor the next steps we need to enact to reach that goal (in 7 years!).

### Thoughts on Specific Projects

1. Additional PV
  - a. Another PV system on the southeast facing roof of School is a possibility.
2. Master Plan – next steps
  - a. Research what strategies other towns have implemented.
  - b. Collect data on actual electricity consumption by municipal entities, business and residence (this will be done by LEAC).
  - c. Collect data on numbers of residences and other buildings that have solar PV (sounds like Mark has an up-to-date list); answer questions like if a residence sells their RECs can we count that towards our 100% goal?
  - d. Try to prioritize next steps by what provides the most bang for the buck.
3. Education
  - a. Of Town Officials. Our energy chapter in Lyme’s Master Plan should be revisited because it did attempt to make the case that moving to renewable energy will require a comprehensive municipal effort.

“To this end, at its 2020 Town Meeting, the Town voted overwhelmingly to collectively pursue the goal of achieving 100% reliance on clean, renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and clean, renewable sources for all other energy needs, including for transportation and heating, by 2050. Lyme’s volunteer Energy Committee has begun

working to implement these goals—details on which are provided later in this chapter—but achieving them will ultimately require widespread and concerted action on the part of all Town employees, elected officials, volunteer committees, and citizens. As such, these goals, and the topic of energy more broadly, deserve prominent visibility within Lyme’s Master Plan (and not just within this dedicated chapter—this topic should permeate all sections of the Master Plan).”

How then might the Energy Committee convince town officials to adopt energy criteria when building a budget, purchasing new vehicles, etc.?

- i. Sean will be attending the NH EV Municipal Vehicles showcase on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Town Committees: same as above. A good start has been our combined meetings with the Planning Board and the Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee; these should be continued.
- c. Public: How do we make this shift from fossil fuels to renewable energies more public, more pervasive, more a dominant topic of conversation? How can we best clear up misconceptions about the transition, ease people’s concerns, or answer specific questions, i.e. do I as a PV owner have the option to sell my RECs instead of the utility simply taking them? What are RECs? How will the grid need to adapt to accommodate distributed energies?
  - i. Jim will contact Amro Farid, a Lyme resident, who is a faculty member at MIT specializing in the future of the grid, to see if he will come speak to our committee.
  - ii. Can we identify other townspeople who have these kinds of expertise and who would be willing to share their expertise.
- d. Community Solar
  - i. Is the amount of money required to build worth the renewable electricity produced?
  - ii. If Lyme joins CPCNH, how will that impact any decision we might take on pursuing community solar?
  - iii. Is a first step to lay out those parcels of land where community solar makes sense, i.e. appropriate siting, proximity to 3-phase power, willing (to entertain) landowners, etc.?
- e. Heat Pumps
  - i. Should we investigate where their placement in municipal buildings makes sense?
  - ii. Should we recruit current heat pump owners to form a Heat Pump Coaches group, providing information, personal experience and advice on how to work the system of rebates and tax credits to townspeople who might be interested?
- f. Is it time to launch Weatherize Lyme 2.0? Would Vital Communities be interested in partnering? Might we include Orford and Piermont again?
  - i. Can we sharpen our focus on those homeowners who might not be able to afford either the energy audit or the recommended work? Can we work with the Pearl Dimick Fuel Assistance folks to identify homeowners who would most benefit

from weatherization, and make the process more user-friendly?

- ii. Are there any town buildings that could benefit from an energy audit and weatherization retrofits?