

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, David Kahn, Mike Novello (via Zoom), Matt Brown (via Zoom)
2. **Approved minutes** from May 8, 2023 meeting (Richard moved, Harry seconded, unanimous vote).
3. **Update on library solar project.** The contract has finally been signed, and Mark will be meeting with Catamount at the library on June 13 to go over a few things. The application for interconnection is almost ready to be submitted (and will be, following the June 13 meeting). The NH PUC/DOE has very recently moved \$400,000 into the C&I Solar Rebate Program (which otherwise had a balance of \$0 on June 1), which could bring in a \$4000 rebate if we can get our “Step 1” application in before they run out of money again. Mark is almost done with the Step 1 application, but needs Catamount to fill in a few things, and then we will also need to wait for an acknowledgment of receipt of the interconnection application from Eversource (which must be attached to the Step 1 application). Jim has heard back from the majority (but not all) of the donors in terms of granting consent for us to use any remaining balance in whatever way we think is best. As part of our “what next?” discussion (see below), we discussed the prospect of using the balance to add batteries to the library PV project—and Mark committed to ask Catamount about batteries at the June 13 meeting.
4. **Update on the Planning Board and ground-mounted solar.** Mark recapped notable events and outcomes from the last two Planning Board meetings, at which the Planning Board (and other members of the public) debated and worked on the upcoming solar zoning amendment with respect to ground-mounted solar. At this point, it appears as if the Planning Board will largely default to the version of the zoning amendment that they had crafted at the end of 2022, with one notable exception: in order to make the concept easier to envision/grasp, they will now express the size limit of ground-mounted solar plants in terms of acres, rather than in terms of square footage of solar module area as defined by the drip edge of the modules (i.e., taking into account the tilt of the modules). The new acreage limit will include any/all spacing between rows of modules (i.e., it will no longer pertain just to module area). They have not yet settled on what the acreage limit will be, but it sounded like something in the 2-acre range might be close to where their thinking currently stands. They are planning to send out another questionnaire to the Town regarding the size limit, and both Mark and Jim have requested that the Energy Committee be given a chance to review the questionnaire before it goes out.
5. **Discussion of future directions.** Jim expressed that the Committee needs more direction as we look ahead to the looming 2030 goal for 100% renewable electricity. As such, we delved into the list of potential new undertakings that we had come up with at our last meeting (and that Jim had summarized in writing—see the attachment to the minutes from our May 8 meeting). The ideas discussed further at this meeting included community solar (no real specifics at present—for now, mostly just staying engaged with the Planning Board to ensure that they do

not foreclose the option to do community solar in the future); setting up a Lyme Green Bank to help finance household energy projects; more emphasis on promoting household solar and energy efficiency/weatherization; holding one or more “window dressing” workshops (to build lightweight “storm windows” that can help curb heating demand in the winter); sending educational content to the Lyme listserv (and continuing to provide educational support to the Planning Board); setting up a “heat pump ambassador” program; and adding batteries to Town buildings. At a minimum, we will continue to engage with the Planning Board around larger ground-mounted solar, Jim will contact the “window dressing” group about setting up a workshop in Lyme, Mike will pull together some educational content on RECs for the Planning Board, and Harry might pull together a “home energy resource kit” to distribute via the listserv.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. Harry moved, Richard seconded, unanimous vote.

Next meeting: likely not until September, unless something comes up

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bolinger, Secretary