

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Committee and public access at UberConference [888-919-7047 or 603-506-6463].

1. Jim announced that this telephonic meeting complies with the Governor's Order #12.
2. Roll call taken of members present: Mark Bolinger, Jim Nourse, Scott Nichols, Matt Brown (Dan O'Hara joined a bit later).

Members of the public joining: Harry Higgs

3. Approved the minutes of our September 23, 2020 meeting. Matt moved; Mark seconded. Motion unanimously approved by roll call (but Scott abstained, as he missed the September 23 meeting).
4. Update on Update on NHSaves and weatherization (Button Up workshop): The Committee co-sponsored a virtual Button Up workshop on October 6 from 7-8:30 PM. The webinar technology worked fine. Jim is not sure how many attendees there were, but based on the Q&As and referrals that he's seen, he estimates that there might have been 6-8 people from Lyme, and perhaps more from Orford. The Pearl Dimick Fund fuel assistance committee has been talking with recipients about weatherization "assessments" (more-positive connotation than "audits"). Seven people are interested; Jim will get their names and help them through the NHSaves application process. Jim will also contact the Lyme Foundation about possible financial support to fund recommended weatherization measures.
5. Update on Town Highway garage: Lyme Green Heat was the only firm to submit/resubmit a bid in response to the recent RFP. The Select Board has asked Dina to solicit at least two bids from propane companies. The Select Board is not likely to take action on this project unless there is leftover money at the end of the calendar year. There is some uncertainty over the status of the NH PUC 40% rebate—Jason Morse at NH PUC told Dina that the FY21 renewable energy fund budget is still under development, and that there is even some question as to whether already-reserved funding for rebates in FY20 will actually be paid.

We discussed the Lyme Green Heat proposal. Scott is concerned that the heat loss calculations are not correct, due to an incorrect assumption about the size of the piping – Scott will take a closer look and discuss with Morty. Scott's interpretation is that Morty's base proposal (two boilers) is based on the original (2003) heat loss calculation, and that his alternate proposal (one boiler) is based on the recent/suspect heat loss calculation, which suggests that the building can get by with just one boiler. Scott thinks two boilers are needed (base proposal).

Not all of the costs are likely to be eligible for the NH PUC rebate (presuming it's still available). For example, the cost of the new fireproof boiler room, as well as the 10-year O&M cost—neither of which are itemized—would likely not be rebate-eligible.

Action items: Scott will follow up with Morty about the heat loss calcs, and will check with Dina to see whether Tarm's original proposal is still considered to be in the running (Tarm did not re-propose in response to the RFP). Matt will do a bit more thinking about possible fundraising options to fill the cost gap should Dina find a competitive propane bid.

6. Discussion of municipal membership in CleanEnergy NH: General discussion about the value of joining as a municipal member (a \$250 fee). Scott provided his assessment based on his company's business membership. Mark mentioned that \$250 is >80% of our \$300 annual budget, and would leave only \$50/year for other possible needs. Jim noted that we're unlikely to spend any of our \$300 budget in 2020, and so might as well join for at least this year, to see how much we get out of it (we can always reassess in future years). Mark made a motion to do just that, and Matt seconded—the vote in favor was unanimous.
7. Discussion of Committee membership and Select Board representative: Our new Select Board representative will be named by the Select Board once they've brought Kevin's replacement on board. Jim also asked for suggestions about other possible new committee members, and several names were offered. Harry Higgs (on the line as a member of the public) expressed interest in officially joining the committee (Jim will call Harry to discuss).
8. Lyme Energy Committee website: Jim has been working with David Robbins to update. Jim had sent out an email discussing changes to be made; members are asked to review that email and let Jim know of any changes or other ideas.

Harry mentioned that it would be useful to have a section on the website that compiles information about EVs, including a list of Lyme EV owners who are willing to share their experience and knowledge with interested EV purchasers. Harry had queried the listserv on this topic a few months ago and got a significant response, as well as a lot of interest from folks interested in hearing what he learned. Compiling that sort of info on our website would potentially save prospective EV owners a lot of time—and might also drive traffic to our website, where other items (e.g., PV status, energy chapter of the master plan, etc.) can be found. Harry will begin compiling this info.

Dan mentioned that something similar for ebikes would also be useful, given significant interest locally. Dan will begin compiling this info, starting with a query to the listserv regarding ebike owners.

9. Town Master Plan, Energy Section—Next Steps: Jim ran through a list of ideas that he and Mark had previously discussed—e.g., focus less on NH-wide data and more on data local to Lyme, including PV and pellet deployment in town, EV trends, our experience with Solarize and Weatherize, current power mix from Eversource and NHEC, etc. And then focus on the 100% goal. Mark volunteered to draft an outline for the revised chapter, which we can discuss at a future meeting. In the meantime, if there are any other thoughts about content or organization, send them to Jim.
10. Adjournment. Matt moved; Dan seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bolinger, Secretary