

Present: Mark Bolinger; Scott Nichols; Jim Nourse; Dan O'Hara; Kevin Sahr

1. Approve the draft minutes from our last meeting.
Dan moved; Scott second. Motion approved.
2. Follow-up on Hanover "Ready for 100" discussion.
Jim Nourse reported on the November 2 workshop he attended hosted by Sustainable Hanover for municipal leaders from ten NH towns who have committed to sustainable, renewable energy goals. Representatives from Claremont, Concord, Dover, Durham, Hanover, Keene, Lebanon, Peterborough, Plainfield-Cornish, and Warner attended. Presentations were made by 3 Degrees (Portland, OR), the consultant hired by Hanover to help choose the next steps to achieving their goals, and the NH Sustainable Energy Association.

The renewable energy supply options being considered include formal municipal aggregation, renewable energy retail supply, VPPAs (virtual power purchasing agreements), community solar and buyers' aggregation for purchasing. Hanover has articulated the criteria for making these choices: (a) sources must be verified as green-e® qualified facilities, e.g. wind, solar, small hydro; (b) must be cost-effective; (c) must have significant impact, i.e. cause new re-builds of power generation and maximize greenhouse gas reduction; (d) favor local project that are visible displays of Hanover's commitment; (e) have a leadership component, i.e. be a replicable process/solution for other towns/cities; and (f) should provide education opportunities for municipal workers, residents, businesses and students.

Henry Herndon from NHSEA provided a context for our current energy system. We are moving from a monopolistic, centralized and carbon-intensive system to a more competitive, distributed, low carbon system. This will require more focus on energy efficiency, distributed generation (solar), demand response/flexible demand, storage, EVs, and a SmartGrid. Municipalities around the state are taking on leadership roles. There are currently 67 solar projects on line with many more in the pipeline. These changes are largely a result of traditional net metering. State needs to increase the 1 megawatt limit in net metering to 5 megawatts; to move to "time-of-use" net metering; deployment of storage systems. He gave a brief history of the Public Utilities Commission and gave examples of municipalities who are influencing the PUC: Lebanon, with net metering and storage pilot (Liberty); Warner, as an intervener in the hearing on "time-of-use" net metering rates; and Manchester, which took advantage of the LED streetlights tariff.

Jim will write up a proposal for action, with alternatives, that the Lyme Energy Committee might consider as we move ahead in this transition to sustainable and renewable energies.

3. Swan grants: Preliminary applications due 12/8; final applications due 01/15. Committee discussed earlier proposal ideas and decided to submit preliminary applications for three projects:
 - (a) PV panels on the Library: project was felt to be a highly visible symbol of town's commitment to renewable, cost-effective energy; the library staff is on board.
 - (b) EV Charging Station: another visible symbol; mentioned in Swan literature; existence may encourage visitors with EVs to come to town and residents who are considering an EV to purchase. This may be tied to the VW settlement in NH; we need to check timing of state decision.
 - (c) Community Solar: we recognize that there will need to be a good deal of research to find a site (one possibility – field across from town ball field), but this will have long-term benefits and could provide a significant benefit to some low-income Lyme residents.

Mark volunteered to write the preliminary applications.

Those ideas which we decided not to pursue at this time: converting all streetlights to LED; the hiring of a consultant to assist with any campaign for a town-wide transition to sustainable, renewable energies; weatherization grants for low-income residents (this seems to be starting through the Pearl Dimick Fund); the purchase of an EV bus; and the pre-paying of the solar loan for Town Offices.

4. Pearl Dimick Fund weatherization effort for recipients of fuel assistance. Wednesday, November 28, 7:00p, there will be a demonstration/training. Kathy Sherrieb is the contact. Scott, Mark and Jim may attend. Question was raised whether the energy audit might be a requirement for fuel assistance.
5. Other items
 - (a) PV on Library (Dan reported): Hendersons Tree Service has not gotten back to him. Mark and Dan checked out the site. One possible concern is snow sliding off the PV panels and its potential for blocking basement windows & radon vents.

8:53 p.m. Motion to adjourn. Scott moved; Kevin seconded. Meeting adjourned.