

Jim Nourse called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Committee access was via Zoom, and public access was via an associated phone number that had been properly warned by Dina.

1. Jim announced that this telephonic meeting complies with the Governor's Order #12.
2. **Members present:** Mark Bolinger, Jim Nourse, Matt Brown, Mike Novello, Harry Higgs, Dan O'Hara, Scott Nichols, David Kahn.
3. **Approved the minutes of our March 8, 2021 meeting.** By unanimous vote.
4. **Discussion of the future of the Energy Committee:** Following the discussion at our March 8 meeting (see March 8 minutes), Jim had solicited, compiled, and re-distributed feedback from individual Committee members about the advantages and disadvantages of operating as an official Town committee versus an unaffiliated committee with essentially the same mission. We spent the bulk of this meeting discussing those ideas and their implications.

Matt relayed his recent experience with an unaffiliated energy committee in Weybridge, VT that has been able to do some interesting things despite (or because of?) not being officially affiliated with the town.

Jim noted 4 realities of operating as an official Town committee that make it more difficult to carry out our charge: (1) our ability to freely communicate (among ourselves and with the Select Board) is limited, even during non-pandemic times; (2) our ability to make decisions and take actions that are potentially controversial among some Lyme residents is limited if we are supposed to be representing the entire Town; (3) our ability to fundraise in certain ways is more difficult as a Town committee; and (4) our ability to effectively educate Lyme residents about the need for an energy transition is compromised by having to work within the confines of the existing Town website.

All members seemed to agree with the idea of transitioning the bulk of intended activities to an unaffiliated committee, with the only remaining question being whether or not to preserve the official Town committee in some form. Several members voiced support for preserving, but largely mothballing, the official Town committee—so that it's there if we ultimately feel we still need it, and for the purposes of conducting any official business that would seem to fall outside the purview of an unaffiliated committee—but to have that official/affiliated committee meet only infrequently (e.g., once a quarter, or twice a year, or even only "as needed").

David raised some structural and legal considerations concerning the unaffiliated committee, such as: (1) whether to set it up as a non-profit or something else; (2) potential tax issues (related to fundraising); (3) potential liability considerations; (4) the

need to clearly differentiate between affiliated and unaffiliated activities; (5) minimizing overlap of membership.

David offered to take this matter up with the Select Board to make sure that we have not overlooked something. Jim will distill our collective thoughts and draft a straw man proposal for David to take to the Select Board for discussion.

1. Energy chapter of master plan: We walked through the various sections and focused on the recommendations at the end. Scott moved and Dan seconded a motion to approve the draft energy chapter of the master plan, with modest changes to a few of the recommendations. The vote was unanimous. Jim (and any other members with interest and availability) will meet with the planning board on April 22 to discuss the draft chapter.
2. **Adjournment:** Dan moved; Scott seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Our next meeting as an official committee is not currently scheduled; it will be scheduled by email (and appropriately warned) as needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Bolinger, Secretary