

Lyme Planning Board Minutes
1/27/2022

Board Members and Staff Present: John Stadler, Chair; David Kahn Select Board Representative; Vicki Smith, Member; Alternate; Rich Brown, Alternate; David Robbins, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Board Members on Zoom, Tim Cook, Vice Chair: Eric Furstenberg, Member; Rich Menge, Alternate;

Board Members Absent:

Members of the Public Present: John Biglow, Mark Bolinger

John appointed Rich Brown to sit for Member Furstenberg.

Item 1: Solar Amendments discussion.

John noted that the Board had run out of time to be able to bring an amendment to the 2022 Town Meeting because of the lack of a quorum due to Covid concerns and the prohibition by the State against meeting remotely. He suggested that the Board start working on a more comprehensive amendment; to be presented at the 2023 Town Meeting.

The Board discussed the methodology used by the Keene, NH Zoning ordinance to differentiate between various types and sizes of systems. The Board decided to appoint a sub-committee to review Keene's ordinance and report back to the Board on whether this approach could be incorporated into Lyme's ordinance.

The sub-committee will be Rich Menge, Rich Brown and Tim Cook. They will meet on Monday February 7th at 2:00 pm. The Planning and Zoning Administrator was asked to check if the State requirement for an in-person quorum also applied to sub-committees or if they meet via zoom.

There was general agreement among the Board members that the main concerns were about how to provide review and elicit public input on larger systems.

There was general consensus among the Board members that they would like to have a draft amendment for the residents to review by town meeting (March, 2022)

John asked the members of the public if they had any questions or comments.

Mark Bolinger stated that he agreed with the Board that rooftop systems should not require any additional review beyond the normal Zoning Administrator review. He noted the difficulties of trying to differentiate between systems that supply power exclusively to a lot and systems that are commercial in nature. Regulating by size instead of use may be a better way. He also felt that no matter how much energy is sold versus used on the lot

should not be a consideration. Electricity created by solar energy systems is better for the environment than from fossil fuel generated energy.

Item 2: Acceptance of minutes from December 9th,2021 and January 6th,2022

Vicki moved to accept the minutes from December 9th,2021 as submitted

Rich Brown seconded the motion.

John called for a vote and the motion passes unanimously.

John moved to approve the minutes from January 6th,2022 as amended by Rich Brown.

Vicki seconded the motion.

John called for a vote and the motion passes unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Robbins

Lyme Planning and Zoning Administrator.