

Lyme Planning Board Minutes
2/24/2022
Draft

Board Members and Staff Present: Tim Cook, Vice Chair; David Kahn, Select Board Representative; Vicki Smith, Member; Eric Furstenberg, Member; David Robbins, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Board Members on Zoom: John Stadler, Chair.

Board Members Absent: Rich Brown, Alternate

Members of the Public Present: Mark Bolinger

Chairman Stadler joined the meeting via Zoom. Vice Chair Cook sat in as chair,

Item 1: Acceptance of minutes from solar amendment subcommittee forum on 02/07/2022 the Planning Board Meeting 2/10/2022.

Tim moved to approve the subcommittee minutes.

Rich Menge seconded the motion.

Both present subcommittee members voted to approve the motion.

Tim moved to approve the Planning Board minutes from 02/10/22

Vicki seconded the motion.

Tim called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Solar Energy Zoning Amendment Discussions.

There were continued discussions as to where to set the size limit for small and large systems. The consensus of the Board was that, at this time, the Zoning should classify systems as small and large. There was no support for adding an additional “medium” category. There was also general agreement that panels mounted to existing buildings would not add to the footprint or lot coverage calculations. Size limitations would only apply to ground mounted systems. Buildings constructed expressly to support solar systems would have a foot print and lot coverage as defined in the ordinance as any other structure.

The Board discussed using the disturbed or involved area for an installed system to determine the lot coverage and footprint. Rich Menge had created a drawing of a system in Plainfield NH. He noted that the area needed for the system was greater than the actual size of the panels. He believed that the Board needed to consider this when determining the appropriate size limits for the Town.

The Board did not reach a decision on the method of calculating the size of systems or cut off point between small and large systems.

The Board briefly discussed Conditional Use Permits for large systems.

John suggested, for the next meeting, the Board members consider what aspects of a large system that they believed should be included in the criteria for Conditional Use permits.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm

Respectfully Submitted,
David A. Robbins
Lyme Planning and Zoning Administrator.