

**Lyme Planning Board Minutes**  
**2/23/2023**

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

Planning Board Members Absent: None

Members of the Energy Committee, Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee and Members of the Public Present: Jim Nourse, Mark Bolinger Matt Brown, Nat Niles, David Perlman, Richard Trefren, James Graham, Jackie Menge, Marion Cass, Steven Doig

**Item 1: Solar Energy Discussions.**

Mark Bolinger opened discussions with a presentation discussing the relative size of Solar Energy Systems vs the energy output and how Solar Energy Systems can help the Town to meet its goal of using 100% of electricity produced from renewable sources by 2030.

In his presentation, he used an example of a system in Maine that covered approximately 20 acres using four separate arrays each covering approximately five acres. Each of the four individual arrays produce approximately one-megawatt.

Mr. Bolinger discussed group net metering and how community members could benefit from a solar system even if they were unable to locate one on their property

Also discussed was the location of 3-phase power and hosting capacity of both of the electric utilities that serve the town. Both of these could have an impact on where systems can be easily located without infrastructure improvements and the amount of power the systems could generate before the electric grid would be overloaded.

Mr. Bolinger addressed a concern that clear cutting a forest would release more carbon into the environment than the solar system would eliminate. He would not recommend clear cutting a large area but believed the removal of trees in such a scenario would still have a net positive outcome.

He was in favor of placing systems on existing cleared areas such as fields as the systems can be removed at the end of their life and letting the soils lie fallow for the life of the system could allow the soils to naturally improve. It was pointed out that the Board cannot mandate that the systems be located only on cleared areas.

The members of the Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee updated the Planning Board and Energy Committee about the purpose of the Committee and the progress that they

have made, including discussions on how “Community Power” can be part of the solution for meeting the 2030 renewable electricity goal.

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