

Lyme Planning Board Minutes
4/27/2023

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

Board Members Absent: David Kahn, Select Board Representative; Rich Brown, Alternate;

Members of the Public Present: Beth McGuinn, David Roby, Jim Nourse, Mark Bolinger, James Graham, Matt Brown, Mike Novello, Harry Higgs

Members of the Public Present Via Zoom: Hunter Snider, Ross Macintyre

Item 1: Beth McGuinn of ReVision Energy, met with the Lyme Planning Board and representatives from the Energy Committee and Lyme Energy Aggregation Committee to discuss commercial solar energy systems, siting criteria, electrical grid connection and other related topics

Beth McGuinn discussed some of the challenges working under New Hampshire's regulatory structure and some of the limitations to the size of 1 MW solar systems under those regulations.

She then shared a power point presentation that covered information about how community solar systems sites are chosen by her company. During the presentation Beth answered questions from the Board and Committee members present. She stated that ReVision looks for sites that are within 1000 feet of existing 3-phase power and are not more than 4 miles from a substation. They prefer flat cleared sites as the installation of the arrays is easier. The arrays are installed on a rack system that is usually built on piers that are screwed into the ground but in some cases, they use a metal wire basket system that has stone ballast inside. The normal lease is for 35 years and it may take over a year to determine if a site is actually useable. They prefer 5 MW systems as they have the most rapid return on their investment. The cost difference between a 1MW and 5 MW system is relatively small as much of the cost is in the prep work that would be needed for either size system. 5 to 7 acres are needed per MW. The cost of upgrading the power to 3-phase power is about \$1M a mile.

Item 2: Acceptance of minutes from 4/13/2023

Vicki moved to approve the minutes as submitted.

Rich Menge seconded the motion.

John Stadler called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

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