

Lyme Energy Committee Meeting
March 9, 2026; 6:00 p.m.

- 1) Meeting Convened 6:00. Jim Nourse, Mark Bolinger, Scott Barthold, Richard Trefren, Mike Novello, present, with Jim Komarmi, Lyme School Board member, attending for public comment.
- 2) Minutes for 1/12/26 meeting reviewed and unanimously approved.
- 3) **Lyme School PV.** A discussion was held with Jim Komarmi about interest in replacing the inverter of the existing nonfunctioning 13 KW solar array at the Lyme School. Jim relayed that the school is now spending about \$4K/month on electricity, and that he would support the estimated \$3.5-\$4K to replace the faulty inverter. Additional discussion was held on advantages of a larger, more public array to further reduce energy costs at the school. There is a 3rd party energy aggregator who is contracted to coordinate energy purchases for the school; Mark B did not think that would impact restoring or expanding solar. Mark also indicated that the Lyme School has a grandfathered net metering contract that provides full market rate for power sold back to the utility, and that this status could be retained with an expanded system up to 30 KW. It was agreed to discuss and investigate options for expanding the PV system at the school but focus initially on the low cost of replacing the faulty inverter to reactivate the current system.
- 4) Scott Barthold provided an update on **Window Dressers** 2026. Currently 10 potential Lyme households have been identified for a prospective total of 67 window inserts. Prospective total for Hanover/Norwich/Lyme is 145, or about 60% of the target 2026 construction. Scott has also posted a Listserv notice for **NH Button Up** weatherization presentation to be held Thursday 3/12 at 6 PM via zoom. A pdf of this presentation is available for all who cannot attend by zoom.
- 5) The **Lyme Library** heat pumps are up and running. There was some confusion over who was applying for rebate funds on this installation; Jim Nourse will follow up on that issue.
- 6) A discussion was held on the **mandate of the Lyme Energy committee** to advance energy conservation, energy efficiency, and use of renewable energy in Lyme, and how critical it is to provide input to local and state officials formulating policy/legislation that impacts energy options and decisions in the State of NH and the Town of Lyme. It was decided that Jim Nourse will request a meeting with the selectboard to seek authorization to discuss and advocate for these matters as a member of the Lyme energy committee. A current example is SB540 which seeks approval in the State of NH for small scale, plug in “balcony” solar up to 200W. This bill would lower the complexity and cost of entry for small scale integration of solar power and make it possible for renters to benefit from small scale solar installations. This could alter the landscape for solar adoption in the Town of Lyme and help achieve some of the stated goals of the Energy committee’s mission statement. The committee feels it is critical that we are able to provide informed input to the State and region’s decision making process on items such as this.
- 7) A lengthy discussion was held on topics of interest and **“what’s next” for the Lyme Energy Committee**. Options discussed included:

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- a) Public education/outreach (solar, heat pumps, weatherization, batteries, financing incentives, etc.)
- b) Lyme School “placed based learning” on energy topics.
- c) Community Solar Projects
 - i) Potential benefit of combining resources for more cost effective renewable energy adoption
 - ii) PAREI/HAREI . Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative. These two organizations use volunteer labor, funding, and area expertise to reduce the cost of local solar installations, (as well as other services). PAREI initiated subsidiary called Solar Shares where the energy from PV arrays is credited to low income residents. Solar Shares currently has 3 installations (The Common Man, Plymouth, Appleknockers, Warren, and NHSS, Center Harbor). There is a similar Renewable Energy initiative in the Seacoast area.
- d) Using Window Dressers as an entry for general assistance/scoping of weatherization needs, potentially enlisting assistance from Those Guys
- e) Discussion with CENH/Sarah Brock on financing options that might be available for an affluent community like Lyme to improve the attractiveness of renewable energy adoption (solar, battery, etc.).

No concrete decisions were made on any of these opportunities.

- 8) It was agreed that Mark Bolinger would provide a **presentation on Community Solar** at the next Lyme Energy committee meeting.
- 9) Meeting adjourned 7:15 PM; next meeting May 11.

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