Lyme Energy Committee Meeting
9/14/2026; 6:00 p.m.

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1) Meeting Convened 6:15. Jim Nourse, Scott Barthold, Richard Trefren, Mike Novello, Brett Wanner present. There was a protracted delay between the scheduled 6 pm start and 6:15 resulting from the fact that 4 college educated professionals could not figure out how to pull open a door. The general consensus is that if we are the ones entrusted to promote clean energy initiatives and preserve our planet, the world is in serious trouble.

2) Minutes for 6/8/26 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

3) Old Business/Updates
   a) Window Dressers—Scott Barthold reported that 222 window inserts have been ordered for the Hanover/Norwich/Lyme build, of which 65 are for Lyme households. The community build will be 10/1-10/8. At present just over 50% of the volunteer slots have been filled. Scott will update this as the date gets closer.
   b) The Library heat pump rebate check had been missing but was found so this project is now complete (Jim Nourse).
   c) School PV update . No real updates on School PV system (Brett Wanner). See later discussion around School PV.
   d) Rte 10 Bike Lane. Interest and support was provided to Michael Hinsley for discussion with fellow Selectmen. No feedback to date.
   e) Replacing Transformers (Jim Nourse). CENH/Eversource have a program that will replace old transformers. Jim will forward this to Michael Hinsley for discussion with the town.

4) Direction and Mandate of the Energy Committee
   a) There was a general discussion regarding what the function of our energy committee should be since current projects (e.g. Converse Library heat pumps) are finalized. This was a broad ranging discussion that included:
      i) The practicality of the 2020 warrant article that committed the town to a goal of 100% renewables by 2030. Do we renew/update the "Renewable Pledge".
      ii) What our responsibilities should be in informing residents of energy technologies and policies, and what is the best forum to do that (web site, listserv, some type of forum).
      iii) Do we want to champion another town energy project (such as the school solar repair).
      iv) A general frustration that the bus of climate change appears to be leaving the station and as a group of just a few members with a $300 annual budget, we cannot realistically achieve our goals.
      v) Committee did not discuss whether polling (via questionnaire) Lyme residents about what they would like to know/help to do/etc.; will be discussed at next meeting.

   b) The following potential future project alternatives were discussed:
      i) Our time and efforts supporting Window Dressers should continue.
      ii) Lyme School Solar. Still no action has been taken, and this is a project that the committee believes it can push. The first step is to determine if replacing the existing inverter will cause the problem. Brett will talk to his service team at Revision to determine

a price to diagnose the situation and see what it will take to replace the inverter. Subsequently we can evaluate options to expand or update the system (which is 20 years old).

iii) The NH HEAR home electrification and appliance rebate program does not have updated information on the web site, but according to Brett has been funded and started. Richard will discuss this the Brett and investigate additional information.

iv) Plug in Solar (Mike N). Mike indicated that Plug in Solar is legal in NH, but that some safety concerns exist including protection of circuit wiring when fed from both ends, and the fact that some Eversource meters may bill customers for power fed back into the grid. Brian Bettourney is excited to work with Lyme students on a plug in solar demonstration as the opportunity allows. A request to use weatherization money from CCL to fund a plug in solar demonstration unit was denied, but the Lyme Foundation suggested a direct grant request would be considered. Jim will follow up on that application.

v) Energy coaching for Lyme was discussed and the committee agreed to learn more about the Monadnock program (Mike) and the Addison VT program (Jim). The consensus was that energy coaching made more sense as a regional endeavor as opposed each town energy committee trying to facilitate the same information. Jim will discuss potential collaboration with Hanover and Lebanon.

vi) The newly formed HAREI Upper Valley program was presented by Scott. This program provides design and permitting assistance to homeowners interested in investing time into the implementation of their PV systems, with the installation culminating with a volunteer solar raising akin to traditional barn raisings. This makes solar more affordable and creates goodwill with neighbors helping neighbors. It was suggested that the energy committee can help spread the word on this program, as well as start to identify potential community projects that could succeed if fund-raising requirements were reduced.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held October 12th at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.