

Final Minutes

Lyme Energy Committee Meeting August 18, 2014

Present: Mark Bolinger, Matt Brown, Gary Phetteplace, Patty Jenks, Scott Nichols, Joanna Jaspersohn

Absent: Dan O'Hara, Robin Taylor, Mike Novello

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:35.

1. It was moved, and seconded that the Minutes of our June 16 meeting be approved (our July meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum).

Action – Mark to submit final June minutes in Dan's absence.

2. Patty Jenks is representing the Selectboard as Sue has other town business. No Action required.

3. Because we did not meet in July, Mark ran through the action items from the June 16 minutes just to refresh everyone's memory and bring members up to speed on any progress. The following was discussed:

- Highway garage sensor data: Mark contacted Mike Smith for historical local weather data but did not hear back; as a result, Mark will query the listserv for this information (note: this task has subsequently been completed, and we now have several local weather datasets at our disposal, including one from Mike Smith). Scott will work with Frank Bowles to try and interpret the timestamp on the sensor data so that we can correlate the sensor data with our local weather datasets. Ultimately, we hope to be able to focus on a few particularly humid periods in the garage to see what was going on both inside and outside the garage at those times. In related news, Scott reported that he talked to someone who works in a very similar garage building in Contoocook, and this person reports no moisture issues at all (it seems they may run their ventilation system more often than Lyme does, and have apparently not had issues with the louvers icing up).
- NH Wood Energy Council: Upon further review of what they have to offer, it was decided that the wood boiler expertise that already exists on the Committee exceeds what we could hope to get out of applying for their program, so no further action is required. Furthermore, the one potential wood boiler-related project that we had discussed during June's meeting – i.e., investigating a containerized wood boiler system at the Fire Station – was shelved pending a revamp of the building's envelope.
- State Energy Plan: Mike had drafted some comments on the plan to be submitted on behalf of the Committee (several members reviewed those comments via e-mail, given that we did not meet in July). Although Mike was not present to confirm, Mark believes that Mike did ultimately submit the comments by the late-July deadline. No further action required.
- Solar on town buildings: We mostly deferred discussion on this item until Sue is present, but Mark mentioned that two initial steps we could take are (1) compile

historical records of electricity consumption at all town buildings, so that we can estimate how large a PV system each building, or the combined town loads, could potentially support; and (2) get a list of town-owned land to see if there is any location that might be appropriate for a larger (e.g., 100 kW) ground-mounted PV system that could offset electricity consumption at ALL town buildings through NH's new "group net metering" program. Action item: Mark to look into this.

4. Solarize Lyme update: This was our first meeting since the sign-up period ended on June 30, so Mark relayed "final" results to the Committee: ~50 households signed up for a total of ~265 kW of PV. Roughly 115 kW signed up in the last few days of the sign-up period (it took us ~3 months to get to 150 kW or Tier 5, and then another ~3 days to add another 115 kW). Lyme's tally was slightly better than the other two Round 1 Solarize Upper Valley "communities" (Stratford/Thetford and Cornish/Plainfield), so we did pretty well considering we are just a single town. The final tally will likely decline somewhat as a few households may ultimately drop out for various reasons. Installations are now occurring – ~10 systems have been installed so far. Action – Mark to continue to monitor the installation phase.

5. Volunteer day at the Fire Station: Related to the discussion about the NH Wood Energy Council and Fire Station mentioned above in item 3, Matt proposed the idea of Committee members getting together for a few hours some afternoon this Fall to try and patch up or "weatherize" the Fire Station envelope in advance of cold weather in an attempt to reduce fuel consumption. The idea would be to make quick, easy, and cheap improvements that could tide the building over until its envelope is more fully addressed in a few years. Action item: Mark to contact Michael Hinsley (Fire Chief) and Mike Woodard (Buildings and Maintenance Committee Chair) about the idea [Note: This task has subsequently been accomplished, and Chief Hinsley will be meeting with Joanna and perhaps other Committee members to talk about his ideas for what could be done.]

6. Pelletize Lyme?: Mark introduced an idea proposed by Morty Bailey (via Bob Walker of SERG) to conduct a "Pelletize Lyme" program modeled after Solarize Lyme. There was brief discussion as to potential merits and challenges, but we all agreed that the first step is to invite Morty to attend one of our meetings and describe what he has in mind. Action item: Mark had already extended an invitation, but will get back in touch to try and firm up a specific date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Next meeting will be at 7:30 on September 15 at the Town Office Building

Respectfully submitted

Mark Bolinger (on behalf of Secretary Dan O'Hara)