

## Minutes

Lyme Energy Committee

December 15, 2014

Present: Mark Bolinger, Sue MacKenzie, Scott Nichols, Robin Taylor, Dan O'Hara,  
Gary Phetteplace

Absent: Mike Novello, Johana Jaspersen, Matt Brown

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:32

1. The minutes for the November 17th meeting were approved as circulated.

ACTION: Dan will send in to town office.

2. The blinking light at the School continues to malfunction during the dark, dreary and snowy days of December. Several possible remedies were suggested including adding a larger battery box. It was suggested that since the state gave these lights to us and several other towns someone must have figured out how to make them work reliably, so perhaps Chief O'Keefe can find out if somebody has figured out a solution.

ACTION: Sue will ask Chief O'Keefe to check with other police departments.

3. The Solarize program is still not complete. Mark reports that 28 out of the total of 43 systems are installed and 2 or 3 are currently in progress. About 12 of the installations will go into next year, and unfortunately some of these are NH CoOp power customers who will lose some of the incentives due to a program expiring at year end. RGS has indicated that they will try to do something to compensate them, but that remains to be seen. It was noted that the local installers have been satisfactory, but there is just too much work to be done and the real problem is at the RGS home office.

ACTION: Mark will keep us updated as the program goes to completion.

4. Gary has gone through all the electricity consumption for the town office building for the last 2+ years. The billing structure is different from residential metering and includes a demand factor that makes the computation of payback from a PV array more complicated and less remunerative. Interestingly the consumption peaks in the summer months indicating that air conditioning and fans constitute a large part of the load. It may be possible to realize significant savings by upgrading the air conditioners to new more efficient units (one air conditioner being stored in the conference room closet was an old inefficient model that has been off the market for several years). It was also suggested that a good old fashioned attic fan might be in order, or perhaps improving the overhead insulation.

An 18 KW array costing about \$63K would be required to cover the current building usage, and given the different billing structure and the fact that tax credits are not available to the town it would be difficult to come up with a financial proposal that would have a chance of being passed at town meeting. It was decided to develop a payback analysis based on current costs and have this to update as costs and incentives change over the next 2 or 3 years.

ACTION: 1. Gary to send consumption data to Mark to determine payback with a spreadsheet that will allow for easy updates when power rates and/or incentives change.

2. Recommend to selectboard that attic insulation and venting be looked at and older window air conditioners be replaced with “energy star” units with high EER.

5. Scott reported that the school is now moving forward with the process of getting “Thermal RECs” (Renewable Energy Credits) to sell. Also a sign is being planned to put up at the school mentioning the biomass heating being used and the PV array on the roof. This sign will mention the companies involved and could mention this committee.  
ACTION: Discuss next month.

6. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 8:32. Next meeting January 19, 2015 at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted

Dan O’Hara