

Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee
Minutes, Approved
October 26, 2023

Present: James Graham, David Perlman, Hebe Quinton, Jim Nourse
Via Zoom: Hunter Snyder

1. James called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Committee unanimously approved minutes of September 25, 2023.
3. Hebe reported on the 10/26 CPCNH member meeting.
 - a. Some of the items discussed are included in the member packet, which was emailed to both Hebe and James prior to the meeting.
 - b. The treatment of net-metered customers joining CPCNH was discussed at length. In order for these customers to retain current benefits, CPCNH needs the data for individual customer's consumption and production. Eversource has not yet provided that data. CPCNH continues to push for this data, and is working on changing language in the PUC regulations to mandate that the utilities provide this in a timely manner. CPCNH is also working to include language that reflects the reduced transmission load costs for net-metered customers. CPCNH intends to preserve the accumulated credits for net-metered customers who join community power plans.
 - c. Hebe reports that three towns – Brentwood, Rollinsford and Concord – are looking into a 3rd party alternative to CPCNH.
 - d. With the current legislation restricting the amount of locally produced power to 1 MW, NH ranks 47th in projects producing 5 MW.
4. Committee discussed essential points to be made during public hearings.
 - a. Less is more; let's not get into the weeds.
 - b. Focus on what is known about Lyme Community Power if it was to launch today.
 - c. Primary selling point should be customer choice and cost savings.
 - d. Should not try to sell it as a political tool, i.e. as an anti-utility monopoly or a save the earth instrument.
 - e. Make it clear that for those folks who will chose to "opt out" for whatever reason, they should still vote to approve Lyme Community Power at March town meeting and make its benefits available to their neighbors.
 - f. Should we advocate that current net-metered customers "opt out" until we are sure that they will be included in Lyme Community Power at current rates?
5. Committee raised some questions to be answered by CPCNH.
 - a. Several questions still remain about the status of net-metered customers:
 - i. Is net-metering currently available? If not, when?
 - ii. Will customers who installed PV pre-2017, still get the same 100% credit for electricity produced?

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- iii. More details on the transmission load reduction algorithm.
 - b. At program launch, should committee make it clear that net-metered customers should “opt out”/
 - c. How should Lymies who are currently customers of a 3rd party provider, i.e. Direct Energy, treated – “opt out,” “opt in,” what are their contract requirements with 3rd party?
6. Public hearing dates were set:
- a. Thursday, November 16; 7 p.m.; Town office conference room
 - b. Tuesday, December 12; 9 a.m.; Town office conference room
7. James directed committee members to forward to him a list of essential points to be made during the public hearings and any links to other towns’ introductory slide decks, e.g. Hanover, Plainfield, Enfield, etc. **That “homework” is due to James by end of Sunday, 10/29.**
8. Jim raised the question of Lyme Electric Aggregation Committee’s budget to be used for all-town mailing at program launch. James will ask Dina whether the Select Board needs to add this to the 2024 budget proposal, or will they simply take it out of other line item if/when needed. Estimated cost is ~\$1,000.
9. **Next meeting:** Thursday, November 9; 5:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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