

Town of Lyme

12175 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, NY 13622

August 14, 2025

Special Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Supervisor Millington called the special monthly meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Those present included Supervisor Millington, Councilmember Bourquin, Councilmember Gosier, Councilmember Jerome, Town Deputy Clerk Serena Beach, Attorney Benjamin Wisniewski, Solar Committee Chair Bill Kleftis.

Councilmember Farrell was absent.

Others present included John Rusho, Judy Kilmer, Deb Simser, Denis and Jeanette Hillick, Jose Bernier, Kenneth Moles, Joseph Chernick, Robert Ward, Karen Greene, Mike Schell, Kelly Sanford, Jennifer Kingsley, Charles Bruce Kingsley, Josh Rogers, Julie Grieco, Heather Lipczynski, Ted Smith, Cathy Ward, Deanna Lothrop, Kathy Gardner, Kim and Tony Casa?, Rosanne Weir, Mimi Litche, Lin Towne and Peter Moles.

Supervisor Millington began the meeting by introducing Attorney Wisniewski and turning the floor over to him. He proceeded to discuss the procedure for the meeting and the goals. Starting with the September 8th and 9th meetings requested by AES. He advised the Town to request and extension or deny the meeting and retain an engineer.

Resolution 2025-190: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to have Attorney Wisniewski contact the developer and decline the September 8th meeting based on schedule and request one at a future date; seconded by Councilmember Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Attorney Wisniewski proceeded to inform the Town that with the current solar projects we have we do not have decommissioning agreements and host community agreements in place. He would like those to be done post haste and we should begin to negotiate immediately.

Resolution 2025-191: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to start working on Solar decommissioning agreements; Councilmember Jerome seconded, all in favor and the motion was carried.

At the request of a resident Attorney Wisniewski then proceeded to explain to the residents in the audience the decommissioning process. He follows up with an explanation of the new Solar Law and its purpose. He informed every one of the State's power and their ability to override local law particularly when solar is outright prohibited. Solar laws have to be eminently reasonable. The law has to be filed and a certified copy must be sent to NY State and stamped received prior to the application being filed.

Supervisor Millington proceeded to read the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION 192 of 2025

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SOLAR LAW

WHEREAS, the Town Board for the Town of Lyme, New York has devoted considerable time and energy to review existing and likely developments associated with Solar Energy in the North Country; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered its existing Solar Energy Law and has determined that its current Solar Energy Law is not sufficient to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and does not provide for current up-to-date substantive and procedural safeguards for the siting, development, operation and decommissioning of Solar Energy facilities in the Town of Lyme; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board intends to minimize the potential adverse impacts associated with Solar Energy Facilities to public health, safety, ground water, water supply, the environment in general and the Town's community, character and history and in so doing is considering the adoption of a new Solar Law for the Town of Lyme; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received, and reviewed a new Solar Law and is interested in proceeding with a more formal review and consideration of the legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Lyme, New York as follows:

1. The forgoing recitations are incorporated herein as set forth above.
2. The Town Board shall proceed with its environmental review of the legislation as required by NY State Environmental Quality Review Act. (6 NYCRR Part 617)
3. A Public Hearing for the Solar Law shall be set and conducted on

September 13, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Chaumont Fire Hall located at 11385 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, NY.

4. The Town Clerk shall transmit a copy of the draft Solar Law together with Notice of Public Hearing to the municipal clerk of the Village of Chaumont and for each municipality that shares boundaries with the Town of Lyme.
5. The Town Clerk shall transmit a full and complete copy of the draft Solar Law to the Jefferson County Planning Department for its review pursuant to NYS General Municipal Law §239-m.
6. The Supervisor for the Town of Lyme and the Town Clerk for the Town of Lyme and their respective agents and representatives are authorized to take all steps and sign all paperwork necessary to bring full force and effect to this Resolution.
7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Board Member, Bourquin, and seconded by Board Member, Gosier, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Jim Millington	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Don Bourquin	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Julia Gosier	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Tim Farrell (Absent)	Yes _____	No _____
Cara Jerome	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____

Prior to the voting there was further discussion with the residents, Attorney Wisniewski and the Town Board regarding when and where to have the meeting. The agreed upon date and location was filled in prior to the vote.

The following resolution was revised as read by Attorney Wisniewski.

RESOLUTION 193 of 2025

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SOLAR LAW

WHEREAS, the Town Board for the Town of Lyme, New York has devoted considerable time and energy to review existing and likely developments associated with Solar Energy in the North Country; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has consider its existing Solar Energy Law and has determined that its current Solar Energy Law is not sufficient to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and does not provide for current up-to-date substantive and procedural safeguards for the siting, development, operation and decommissioning of Solar Energy facilities in the Town of Lyme; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board intends to minimize the potential adverse impacts associated with Solar Energy Facilities to public health, safety, ground water, water supply, the environment in general and the Town’s community, character and history and in so doing is considering the adoption of a new Solar Law for the Town of Lyme; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received, and reviewed a new Solar Law and is interested in proceeding with a more formal review and consideration of the legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Lyme, New York as follows:

1. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme introduces Local Law #4 of 2025 titled Solar Law for the Town of Lyme, for formal review and consideration.
2. The forgoing recitations are incorporated herein as set forth above.
3. The Town Board shall proceed with its environmental review of the legislation as required by NY State Environmental Quality Review Act. (6 NYCRR Part 617)
4. A Public Hearing for the Solar Law shall be set and conducted on September 13, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Chaumont Fire Hall located at 11385 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, NY.
5. The Town Clerk shall transmit a copy of the draft Solar Law together with Notice of Public Hearing to the municipal clerk of the Village of Chaumont and for each municipality that shares boundaries with the Town of Lyme.
6. The Town Clerk shall transmit a full and complete copy of the draft Solar Law to the Jefferson County Planning Department for its review pursuant to NYS General Municipal Law §239-m.
7. The Supervisor for the Town of Lyme and the Town Clerk for the Town of Lyme and their respective agents and representatives are authorized to take all steps and sign all paperwork necessary to bring full force and effect to this Resolution.
8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The above resolution was offered by Board Member Gosier, and Seconded by Supervisor Millington, and upon roll call of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Jim Millington	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Don Bourquin	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Julia Gosier	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Tim Farrell (Absent)	Yes _____	No _____
Cara Jerome	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____

After the resolutions were adopted, Attorney Wisniewski proceeded to answer any additional questions from the public. He also stressed that the law can be changed once filed as long as changes are not substantial.

He advised we can publish the draft law on our website as long as it clearly states draft and possibly has a watermark.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) its policies and procedures. The importance of commenting on the website the sooner the better. The difference between part comments and public comments was discussed and it was advised that sticking to qualitative comments.

Ted Smith proceeded to hand out instructions on how to comment on ORES’s website.

The residents asked Supervisor Millington about the time, location, and guest list for the bridge dedication. They then had a discussion on trying to use the bridge dedication to convince legislators in the area to help to stop solar projects. If not at the dedication residents were going to reach out to legislators independently to try and get additional help in stopping additional solar projects from coming to the area.

Supervisor Millington adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Serena Beach

Serena Beach

Deputy Town Clerk